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More Million... day's LOTTO M... $50 million, pl... "That's a lot o... Tuplin, "I wil... other wannal... whopping $5... chances at a $1...

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To talk about the rarity ... find a good actuarial scientis... arial scientists we know wer... MAX tickets. I guess we go... tential millionaires we spoke ...ed they would ... happy just winning $1 million o...ars.

But when pressed, none said they would go so far as to turn down the extra millions. These findings may not be conclusive however, as we only asked colleagues here in the newsroom. To find out more about this historic draw, stay tuned to this paper. As always, we will be bringing you the latest news from across this great country.

More Millionaires in Canada possible with this Fri...

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Indeed, it has been some time since LOTTO MAX has had such an offering. And an informal poll on the streets of the nation shows Canadians are loving their chances. "Even if I don't win the big one, I still have 50 chances at a million!" says

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Craving the thrill

Looking to tour a haunted house this season? Here's how to make it a scream-worthy experience

PAGE 50

HOT COSTUMES FOR HALLOWEEN

BIG BIRD MEETS GANGNAM THIS YEAR AS POP CULTURE INFLUENCES TOP OUTFITS

PAGE 48

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'STUPIDEST STUNT'

PAGE 10

The Monsters of Schlock, brothers Burnaby Q. Orbax, left, and Sweet Pepper Klopek, celebrate after performing their 'stupidest stunt to date.' Orbax tattooed his brother while riding the wooden roller-coaster at Playland Wednesday. PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Vancouver increasingly multilingual

Census. Over 40 per cent of the population has a mother tongue other than English or French

The number of "non-official" languages in the metropolitan region of Vancouver continues to increase, new census data shows — evidence that despite the dominance of English and French elsewhere in the country, Canada's major cities have become multi-tongued mosaics of immigration-fuelled diversity.

English was identified as the mother tongue for 57.2 per cent of people in the census metropolitan area of Vancouver, Statistics Canada said Wednesday as it released new information on languages from the 2011 census. French, Canada's other official language, was cited by 1.2 per cent.

But a total of 41.5 per cent of the population of Metro Vancouver has a mother tongue other than one of Canada's official languages. That's an increase from 41.1 per cent in the 2006 census.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

More coverage (pages 18-19)

Array of languages

A breakdown of some of the languages spoken in the Vancouver metropolitan area. Beside each language is the number of people who speak the language at home.

- **English:** 1,311,685
- **Any one of the Chinese languages:** 345,930
- **Punjabi:** 143,475
- **Tagalog (Filipino):** 63,385
- **Korean:** 44,565
- **Persian (Farsi):** 35,070

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Demonstration

B.C. NDP leader greets protesters, won't take harder stand on Kinder Morgan

They came to protest pipelines; they stayed to eat samosas, drink chai and chat with B.C. NDP Leader Adrian Dix.

More than 50 people politely and quietly demonstrated outside the MLA's Vancouver-Kingsway constituency office as part of the wider "Defend Our Coast" protests across the Lower Mainland Wednesday.

With signs reading "No Gateway to global warming" and "Stop the Kinder Morgan pipeline," the gathering organized by the Wilderness Committee tried to convince Dix — who was invited well in advance — to take a harder stance against the proposed doubling of the Kinder Morgan pipeline.

The Wilderness Committee's Ben West called Kinder Morgan "smart" and "sneaky" and added that tanker traffic has increased drastically because of its shipments.

Dix invited everyone inside and spoke with protesters at length in his crammed office. However, he would not promise further steps against Kinder Morgan because the company has yet to file a regulatory application.

But Dix did reiterate his intention, should the NDP win the May election, to pull out of the Enbridge pipeline's federal environmental-review process and conduct an environmental assessment in B.C.

The same made-in-B.C. review would apply to Kinder Morgan, he said.

"This issue is going to be decided in B.C.," Dix said.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Demonstrators take part in an anti-pipeline protest march to Premier Christy Clark's office in Vancouver on Wednesday. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hundreds rally at premier's office

Protest the pipeline.
Demonstrators call on B.C. leader to defend the climate

KATE WEBB
kate.webb@metronews.ca

Premier Christy Clark was in meetings in Vancouver Wednesday as 250 protesters marched on her Point Grey constituency office, calling on her to unconditionally oppose both the proposed Northern Gateway and Trans Mountain pipelines.

The "Defend Our Coast" march was one of 63 demonstrations held at MLA offices across B.C. for the second day of action this week, following a gathering of about 3,000 protesters in Victoria on Monday.

UBC energy-policy professor and march organizer George Hoberg said the world's complex energy system has a "massive trajectory that is taking us off a cliff toward dangerous climate change."

"We need to reorient that system right away," he said. "The International Energy Agency tells us we have five years to undertake that fundamental transformation.

"The best way to do it is to put an economy-wide price on carbon that can drive greenhouse-gas emissions down to a level that's acceptable, and will drive innovation toward more sustainable practices."

The protesters sang, danced and donned colourful costumes as they made their way from UBC to Clark's office by noon.

Protecting the future

"I just had a baby.... I want to make sure that she's got a healthy world to live in"
Protester Andrew Rushmere, 31

Andrew Rushmere, 31, was one of several marchers who said the pipelines have become a lighting rod for debate about the larger problems associated with fossil-fuel extraction.

Another protester, Stephanie Lafazanos, wore a black oil drop in the shape of a tear on her cheek.

"I know that our health depends on the health of our environment, and the health of our environment also supports many people's livelihood," she said. "I believe if the pipeline was to go through, we would risk polluting some of our best resources."

Police briefly cut traffic down to one lane on West 4th Avenue near Alma as the protest reached its apex outside Clark's office, but Sgt. Jack Sarna said the group was extremely peaceful and co-operative and there were no arrests.

A spokesman for the premier said Clark was not deliberately avoiding the protesters, but wasn't there to meet them because she typically only spends one day a month in her constituency office. There was no statement about Wednesday's day of action.

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The new Vancouver Inspiration Pass program will provide free access to the city's most popular attractions, recreation facilities and arts and culture venues. PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

VIP pass to inspire exploration

Vancouver attractions. Initiative encourages city residents to regularly visit cultural institutions

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
phylicia.torrevillas@metronews.ca

Vancouverites now have a chance to explore some of the city's most popular attractions for free.

The new Vancouver Inspiration Pass (VIP) will provide new immigrants, low-income families and youth free admission to attractions including the Science World, Vancouver Aquarium, and the UBC Museum of Anthropology.

A total of 120 passes will be available to borrow for two-week periods from Vancouver library branches across the city.

Library-card holders can reserve passes now, but the program starts Nov. 1.

"The goal with this pass is we get a whole new generation accessing Vancouver's great organizations, great events and arts and museums and science, all of that becomes accessible to our youth in particular," Mayor Gregor Robertson said.

"This is a way to inspire people and turn them into regular goers to all of these great cultural institutions."

The passes also allow access to the park board's skating rinks, botanical gardens, fitness centres and pitch-and-putt golf courses.

Vancouver residents aged 14 and older can borrow a pass once a year. The pass will allow admission for a family of two adults and up to four children, or a group of up to six youth (aged 14 to 18).

For more information, visit vpl.ca/InspirationPass.

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Mayor in your ear.
Blink-182 drummer samples Gregor Robertson

Badass Blink-182 drummer Travis Barker has released a track featuring rapper Yelawolf and — wait for it — Mayor Gregor Robertson.

The single, Push Em, was featured on Rolling Stone on Tuesday.

It samples a clip of Robertson speaking after the infamous Stanley Cup riot in 2011, in which he says:

"We are dealing with a small group of troublemakers — a bunch of angry young men who are fighting, smashing things up, lighting fires and causing problems."

The duo's EP, Psycho White, will be released Nov. 13.

This is not Robertson's first musical interlude. He also plays tuba.

KATE WEBB/METRO

Travis Barker, right, and Yelawolf in their video that features a speech by Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson. YOUTUBE.COM

Setting record straight

Province defends temporary Chinese miners

The B.C. government is trying to set the record straight over word that Chinese miners have been recruited for jobs in a provincial mine.

The government has issued a statement about a plan by HD Mining to use Chinese miners to do exploratory work for a potential coal mine near Tumbler Ridge.

The statement says the jobs would be temporary and would not displace the long-term jobs of B.C. residents, pointing out there are few workers in Canada with experience in the process known as long wall mining.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fort St. John

Student at B.C. high school stabbed; police arrest second student

A student has been stabbed at a high school in Fort St. John in northeast B.C.

The attack at North Peace Secondary School triggered a lockdown at the school Wednesday morning.

The RCMP say the victim was found at the school and the suspect was arrested a short distance away.

Police say both people involved are students at the school.

The victim is in hospital, and no other students where harmed.

CJDC/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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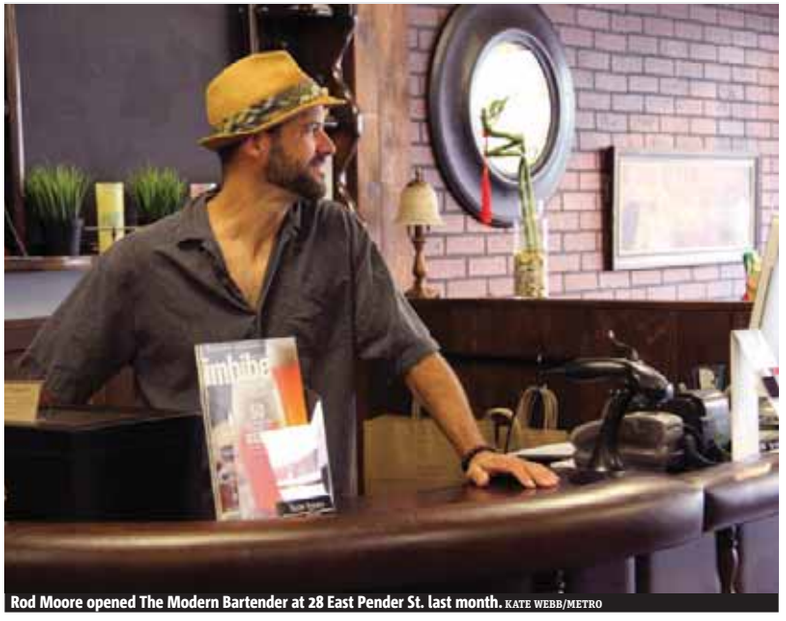
The Modern Bartender shakes up Tiki cocktails



Rod Moore opened The Modern Bartender at 28 East Pender St. last month. KATE WEBB/METRO

Classic drinks. Tiki cocktail shop focuses on fruity, highly potent drinks popularized after Prohibition by California bars

KATE WEBB
kate.webb@metronews.ca

You know that guy: The one with the fedoras and cigars, whose home bar is stocked with tiny umbrellas, tiki torches and 17 kinds of rum.

Meet Rod Moore — a.k.a. that guy — who opened Vancouver's only store exclusively dedicated to bar supplies, and specializing in tiki cocktail culture, one month ago.

The Modern Bartender in Crosstown, right next to the Dr. Sun Yat Sen gardens, has everything you need to make classic tiki cocktails, from vintage glassware and recipe books to more than 60 kinds of bitters. Moore explained the elaborate, fruity, and highly potent drinks were popularized right after Prohibition by famous California bars like Don the Beachcomber and Trader Vic's.

"Some of them have 11 or 12 ingredients," he said, offering examples such as the Zombie and Mai Tai. "We're talking two drops of this and a quarter-ounce of that, whereas even the standard cocktails people know, Sazeracs or whatever, they're two or three ingredients."

Moore, who previously owned a sporting-goods store, got the idea for The Modern Bartender after being hired to run the back patio at The Narrow Lounge for the summer and "do his tiki thing."

"I have a crazy home bar, and I've been geeking out about it myself on my own time for years," he explained.

But when he couldn't find the syrups, bitters or ice-crushing tools he needed in one place, he realized there might be a market for a one-stop bar-supply shop in Vancouver. It also fit in nicely with his plan to run his own speakeasy, called The Shameful Tiki Bar, which will open on Main Street and King Edward early next year.

With tons of tiki art, clothing, vintage kitsch and a selection of fedoras and cigars for sale, Moore is hedging his bet that Vancouver's tiki-culture revival is here to stay.

"I came to realize something a long time ago: I'm not that unique. Nobody is," he said. "So if I like it, other people are going to like it too."

The Modern Bartender can be found at 28 East Pender St., or online at themodernbartender.com.

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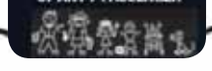

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Charity forced to cancel auction

No wine allowed. B.C. liquor control forbids theatre's fundraising event, costing non-profit group $30,000

EMILY JACKSON
vancouver@metronews.ca

Don't bother donating a bottle of wine to a charity auction unless you want to run afoul of B.C.'s liquor laws.

The B.C. Liquor Control and Licensing Branch thwarted a Victoria theatre's fundraising plan of selling donated wine at an event, even though the theatre held the exact same event without problem for the past two years.

The Belfry Theatre was forced to cancel its upcoming wine auction after the LCLB said that "under no circumstance" could the theatre legally auction privately donated wine, theatre general manager Ivan Habel said.

The last-minute order forbidding the auction will cost the non-profit group $30,000 — about $10,000 in sunk costs and $20,000 in expected revenue, Habel said.

"They gave us all kinds of reasons, none of them which made any sense whatsoever," he said.

He questions the logic of the government taking "critical" revenue sources away from charities. The donated wine, he pointed out, came from private cellars and had been purchased at some point.

But it seems the ministry might be open to loosening restrictions.

A ministry spokesperson reached Thursday said they are "moving quickly to find interim measures to deal with these types of situations.

"As well, we have asked legal counsel to investigate options because changing this rule may require a legislative amendment."

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Speeding violation. Zero to irony in 2.8 seconds

The Lamborghini police pulled over for not having insurance. CONTRIBUTED

2012 Lamborghini Aventador: $387,000 U.S. Fine for not insuring vehicle: $568. Police reaction as driver of exotic sports car complains about the cost of a fine: priceless.

According to Richmond RCMP, officers recently pulled over a 22-year-old West Vancouver resident driving a 2012 Lamborghini Aventador for a suspected licence-plate violation.

It soon turned out the Italian racer wasn't insured, leading to a moment of stunning irony that was not lost on RCMP.

"When the officer gave the driver a $568 fine for not having insurance, the driver actually complained the fine was too much money," said Cpl. Robert McDonald in a media release.

To the driver's chagrin, the car was towed during the incident. MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Research scandal. Seven workers gone from B.C. Health Ministry

B.C.'s health minister says all seven bureaucrats implicated in a research scandal are no longer working for the government.

Dr. Margaret MacDiarmid had been health minister for one day in September when she held a news conference to announce four ministry employees had been fired and three suspended.

She says the ministry had launched an investigation into the relationship between university researchers seeking grants and some employees in her ministry who help decide what drugs B.C.'s Pharmacare program covers.

MacDiarmid says all seven employees are now gone, including one who was suspended and later filed a defamation suit against the minister.

MacDiarmid says the investigation continues and information has been passed to the RCMP.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Investigation

Commercial diver dies off Haida Gwaii

The B.C. Coroners Service is investigating the death of a commercial diver off Haida Gwaii.

Robert Wayne Antifave of Lantzville was diving for geoducks — a large type of clam — on Saturday morning. The 51-year-old was working from a boat, and others aboard the vessel noticed he was in trouble as he surfaced.

Antifave was flown to hospital on Haida Gwaii, but couldn't be revived.

CFTK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Unsolved mystery

Mother pleads for information in son's murder

The mother of a man found dead in the province's north is asking for individuals who know what happened to come forward.

RCMP investigators confirmed in February that the human remains found in an abandoned home near Fort St. James were those of Fribjon Bjornson.

His mother Eileen Bjornson says people have come forward to her family with information but have refused to talk to the police.

PRINCE GEORGE CITIZEN

Woman shoved by officer to get rights hearing

Set for spring 2013. Human-rights tribunal denies constable's application for dismissal of complaint filed by Sandy Davidsen, who has cerebral palsy

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

The British Columbia Human Rights Tribunal has granted a hearing to a woman with cerebral palsy and multiple sclerosis who was pushed to the ground by a police officer.

Sandy Davidsen filed a human-rights complaint against Const. Taylor Robinson and the Vancouver police board in October 2010, alleging discrimination based on her disabilities.

Robinson applied to have the case dismissed in April 2012, but the tribunal denied his application this week.

Video cameras captured Robinson shoving a 100-pound Davidsen on Hastings Street as she tried to pass in June 2010. He did not help her up and walked away. Thousands viewed the video online.

In a letter to Davidsen, Robinson expressed his regret for walking away. He is facing police disciplinary proceedings for the incident.

Davidsen's lawyer Scott Berstein said in a news release that she is looking forward to the public hearing, which is scheduled for spring 2013.

"Davidsen has obvious and visible disabilities, and the public has a right to know whether Vancouver police officers are prepared to accommodate and respect these disabilities in the course of their duties."

A screengrab of a video showing Sandy Davidsen being pushed. METRO FILE

Probe. Surveyor killed in B.C. avalanche ID'd

A 50-year-old man has been identified as the person killed in an avalanche in northwest B.C. Tuesday.

The B.C. Coroner's Service says Pat Lawrence Desmarais of Telkwa was doing mine-survey work with another man 50 kilometres outside Stewart, near the Alaska border, when the avalanche came down.

Desmarais was swept about 300 metres down a steep slope, but the second man managed to survive.

The Coroner's Service, WorkSafeBC and B.C.'s mines inspector are investigating the death. THE CANADIAN PRESS

In numbers

10

Ten people died in avalanches around B.C. during the 2011-12 season.

Records

UVic launches massive weather website

Everyone likes to talk about the weather, but now the University of Victoria is doing something about it.

The university has launched a new website that includes weather records for more than 6,000 places in the province going back as far as 1872.

The records, which include temperature, precipitation, wind speed and humidity, were put together by the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium at UVic with the help of the B.C. government, B.C. Hydro and RioTinto-Al Can. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bust

RCMP hunt for grow-op suspects

Chilliwack RCMP have the house — and the drugs — but they are still looking for the suspects who turned an entire Fraser Valley home into a 2,800-square-foot grow-op.

Mounties busted the home Tuesday and seized nearly 800 marijuana plants with an estimated value of $150,000.

Const. Tracy Wolbeck says it's the second time in two weeks that a large grow-op has been located near an elementary school and dismantled by the drug section of Chilliwack's Crime Reduction Unit.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Court. Mistrial in rave child-porn case rejected

A provincial court judge has rejected a request for a mistrial in the case of a man accused of distributing child porn online after an incident at a rave party in Pitt Meadows two years ago.

Dennis Warrington, 21, was charged after he posted nude images on his Facebook page of a 16-year-old girl who says she was sexually assaulted at the party.

Judge Shehni Dossa dismissed the defence request for a mistrial, saying it would cause unnecessary delays and agreeing with prosecutors who said a new trial should only be ordered as a last resort. CKNW/NEWS1130/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Trial to resume

- The trial is set to resume Nov. 27 with several more witnesses expected to testify, including the young woman who says she was assaulted.

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The Monsters of Schlock are back at Fright Nights at Playland. The duo with a passion for pain perform their 'stupidest' stunt ever: The great Orbax tattoos his brother Sweet Pepper Klopek while riding Vancouver's beloved wooden roller-coaster at the PNE

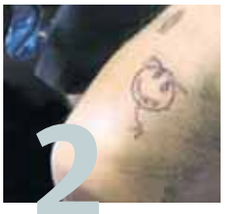
PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
phylicia.torrevillas@metronews.ca

1 Tattooed on the coaster.

Orbax, left, and Sweet Pepper Klopek celebrate after performing the "stupidest" stunt they've ever done. Orbax gave his brother a tattoo while riding the historic wooden roller-coaster at Playland Wednesday.

2 New ink.

Sweet Pepper Klopek is happy with his new tattoo — a smiley face with a really long tongue on his upper-right knee.



Rattle-a-tat-tat

Nothing says family bonding like letting your brother give you a tattoo while riding a half-century-old wooden roller-coaster.

Modern-day daredevils Burnaby Q. Orbax and Sweet Pepper Klopek, of the touring freak show Monsters of Schlock, did just that Wednesday on one of B.C.'s most iconic landmarks.

"It's been a lifelong dream of my brother to be tattooed on a running roller-coaster," Orbax said before the stunt at Playland at the PNE. "Having never tattooed anybody and having access to the oldest running wooden roller-coaster in Canada, we decided (Wednesday) would be the best day to achieve that dream and make it a reality.

"We've done much more dangerous stunts all over the world, but this is probably our stupidest stunt that we've ever done."

Orbax held the tattoo machine, while the ink cap was duct taped to Klopek's hands.

After a second round in the coaster, the brothers high-fived and hugged. The end result: A smiley face with a really long tongue.

"He did a good job. I'm proud of him," Klopek said of his new tattoo on his upper-right knee. "Who thought you could do that, eh?"

Last year, the great Orbax broke the Guinness World Record for the longest, heaviest pull from two shark hooks in his back. He pulled a four-tonne pickup truck over a distance of 111.7 metres.

Meanwhile, Sweet Pepper holds the world record for the most mousetraps set off on a tongue in a minute — 40 to be exact.

PNE spokesperson Laura Ballance said the historic roller-coaster, which was built in 1958, has seen its fair share of memorable moments.

"In the 20 years that I've been here, I've seen people get married on this coaster," she said. "I've seen a lot of movies being filmed. I've seen celebrities that have flown in just because of the iconic reputation this roller-coaster has, not only here in British Columbia but around the world."

The five-time Guinness World Record breakers, who are back at Fright Nights with three nightly shows, are sure they can top this stunt next year.

"Oh, yes, I just don't know how yet, but we will," Klopek said.

Fright Nights at Playland at the PNE run until Oct. 31.

3 Raising the bar.

The brothers make final checks before they start their stunt on the iconic coaster.

4 Pumped up.

The daredevil duo pose for a photo with a borrowed can of shaving cream and razor before their stunt.

5 No experience necessary.

Orbax had never tattooed anyone before, but his brother Sweet Pepper thinks he did a great job.

6 Getting ready.

Sweet Pepper Klopek duct-tapes an ink cap to his hand.

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Again! Comments on rape trip up one more Republican

Women shocked.
A victim's pregnancy is 'something God intended,' says Indiana candidate

Another Republican running for the U.S. Senate has sparked outrage with comments about rape.

Richard Mourdock told a live television audience that when a woman becomes pregnant during a rape, it's "something God intended."

Mourdock, an Indiana Senate candidate, was asked during a debate Tuesday whether abortion should be allowed in cases of rape or incest.

"I struggled with it myself for a long time but I came to realize that life is that gift from God," Mourdock said.

"And, I think, even when life begins in that horrible situation of rape, that it is something that God intended to happen."

Republican Richard Mourdock's comments on rape have angered women. SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES/FILE

Mourdock explained after the debate that he did not believe God intended rape but that God is the only one who can create life.

"Are you trying to suggest somehow that God preordained rape? No, I don't think that," Mourdock said.

"Anyone who would suggest that is just sick and twisted. No, that's not even close to what I said."

Mourdock has consistently opposed abortion, with the exception of cases where the mother's life is in danger.

Mourdock on Wednesday stood by his statement.

Women voters are key to this year's presidential race, and Republican challenger Mitt Romney has been drawn into this latest issue.

Romney campaign spokesperson Andrea Saul said Romney disagrees with Mourdock's opposition to abortion in cases of rape and incest, but she said Romney still supports Mourdock's Senate bid.

In August, Missouri Senate candidate Todd Akin caused an uproar when he said women's bodies have ways of preventing pregnancy in cases of what he called "legitimate rape."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mystery. Is human head linked to body in ditch?

Teenagers walk past the spot where a human head was found in Edmonton on Wednesday. JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A human head was found Wednesday in an Edmonton alley.

Police are trying to find out if it belongs to a body found in a rural area east of the city on the weekend.

A source said a woman discovered the head.

Jesse Whitnack, a 30-year-old computer tech who lives in an apartment at the end of the alley, watched police from his balcony and zoomed in with his camera.

He said the head was on the ground. He could see hair, but he couldn't tell if it belonged to a man or a woman.

Police took the head away in a brown paper bag, Whitnack said.

RCMP are working with city police to determine whether the head is linked to remains found in a ditch near Ranfurly, about 120 kilometres east of Edmonton.

The Mounties have said little about that case, other than that a body was found on Saturday evening. An autopsy was performed Monday.

Local media have quoted area residents who said they had heard that the body had been decapitated and was found lying in a ditch next to a running pickup truck.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pessimism in Syria

UN backs it, but weekend truce plan appears doomed to fail

The United Nations Security Council gave unanimous backing Wednesday to a four-day truce proposed by the international mediator for Syria.

Lakhdar Brahimi, the UN-Arab League envoy, told the council the Syrian regime and some rebel groups promised to lay down their arms during the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha, which begins Friday.

But President Bashar Assad's regime denied Wednesday it had committed to the plan.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A man injured by an artillery shell in Aleppo is rushed to hospital. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Party in flux: Can the Liberal centre hold?

The days are numbered for most Liberal party leaders in Canada, with leadership elections looming across the country. At this time of change, Metro asked: Are Liberal parties dying or renewing? Who is going to determine their future?

JESSICA SMITH
vancouver@metronews.ca

Stephen Taylor, National Citizens Coalition, Conservative

"I don't know if I want to be the one to predict the death of an institution that's had electoral success in 80 of the past 100 years, but I will say we are seeing a federal Liberal party and six provincial Liberal parties that are going through electing a leader right now. That doesn't happen, generally, with successful parties.

"There's an interesting thesis by (NDP strategist) Jamey Heath. He said that in Western democracies these centrist parties who don't really stand for bold issues, either on the left or the right, and just occupy the centre and rule as administrators, have given way to parties on the left and on the right.

"Canadians and citizens worldwide are more connected to the daily grind and the daily debate of what's happening in their respective legislatures, via 24-hour news, via social media, through the Internet.… It's a market that emphasizes and enables the politicians that are actually selling ideas, rather than just administration, just keeping the lights on."

Sheila Copps, former deputy prime minister, Liberal

"I find the spate of stories recently about the death of the Liberal party ironic, because when the Conservative party was reduced to two members it was never, ever assumed that they were in the graveyard. So there's a cyclical rhythm to politics and at the moment the Liberals are on the upswing.

"I think that their political enemies would like to see them die. The (federal) Liberals in the last election were reduced to third-party status and Stephen Harper uses every opportunity to go after the Liberals because he sees them as a long-term enemy."

Ian Capstick, NDP strategist, owner of Media Style

"Overall, Liberals have a grave problem in their own inability to define themselves from coast to coast to coast. I don't think it's going to happen from the provinces up. Fundamentally, over the course of Liberal history, it has always been the federal Liberal leader who has very much been the face, the brand and the ideological force behind the party.

"(Liberals) have political parties who are down a few leaders. I don't think we've got rats jumping from a sinking ship. We're seeing that natural ebb and flow of politics."

Marc Garneau, Liberal MP

"Support for Liberal values such as free speech, tolerance, evidence-based policymaking and a balanced approach between social justice and fiscal responsibility remains strong. As long as that is the case, Liberal parties will remain relevant."

Martha Hall-Findlay, former Liberal MP

"This is exactly how political parties renew themselves and grow. The leadership contest will encourage Liberals to come to grips with what the federal Liberal party really stands for, and why, and how to ensure that its message resonates with voters. And not everyone will agree, so expect some vigorous debate — that's what real renewal depends on."

Elizabeth May, Green party leader

"I never thought the Liberal party was anywhere near dead. I think it would be absurd, given the weight of Canadian history and the engagement of the Liberal party and Liberal-party adherents across Canada.

"It's naive to think that somehow the results of the 2011 election represent any kind of new equilibrium in Canadian politics. It has been in flux and has remained in flux — meaning there is room in Canadian politics for the Green party to grow and the parties that were hurt in 2011 to rebuild."

Peter Sherman, finance critic, Ontario PCs

"The way Liberals operate is usually about demonstrating what they want the public to perceive as their own largesse in creating projects — handing out money, picking winner companies and stimulating them, as opposed to sectors (of the economy) — and saying, 'Look how much we've invested.' It's taxpayer dollars, and I think people are onto them. Liberal parties operating more for their own benefit rather than for the benefit of the people seem to be falling like flies."

Answers were edited for clarity and length.

Liberals across the country are seeking renewal. Among them are, from left, Ontario MPP Deb Matthews, MP and federal leadership candidate Justin Trudeau; MP Stéphane Dion, Alberta MLAs Raj Sherman and Laurie Blakeman, Ontario MPP Kathleen Wynne, former MP and rumoured Ontario leadership contender Gerard Kennedy, and federal leadership candidate Deborah Coyne. PHOTO COLLAGE: DAVID VAN DYKE/METRO

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‘Millennium bomber’ gets 37 years

Appeals court. Terrorist sentenced for plotting to blow up L.A. airport more than a decade ago

An Algerian man whose sentence for plotting to blow up the Los Angeles airport around the turn of the new millennium was thrown out for being too lenient was ordered Wednesday to spend 37 years in prison.

Ahmed Ressam, who had trained with al-Qaida in Afghanistan, was arrested in December 1999 when a customs agent noticed that he appeared suspicious as he drove off a ferry from Canada onto Washington’s Olympic Peninsula. A resulting search turned up a trunk filled with explosives.

Ressam’s capture, after a brief foot chase, prompted fears of a terrorist attack and the cancellation of Seattle’s New Year’s Eve fireworks.

U.S. District Judge John C. Coughenour had twice ordered him to serve 22-year terms, but both times the sentences were rejected on appeal. This time, Ressam’s attorneys conceded he should face at least three decades to satisfy the appeals courts.

The Justice Department, which previously sought sentences of 35 years and of life in prison, recommended a life sentence again because of the mass murder Ressam intended to inflict. In those pre-Sept. 11 days, it was “a virtually unimaginable horror,” assistant U.S. Attorney Helen Brunner told the court.

“If Mr. Ressam had succeeded,” she said, “it is likely hundreds, if not thousands, of innocent lives would have been lost.” THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Algerian national Ahmed Ressam is seen in federal court in Los Angeles in March 2001 in this court artist’s drawing. Ressam has been sentenced to 37 years in prison for plotting to bomb the L.A. airport. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Troubling case

Ressam’s case has been vexing because he started co-operating after he was convicted. Information he provided helped convict several terror suspects and contributed to the arrest of suspected Osama bin Laden lieutenant Abu Zubaydah.

Prison death. Judge refuses to delay inquest

An inquest into the prison death of a deeply troubled teenager can proceed after a judge on Wednesday rejected the federal government’s last-ditch request for an emergency stay.

The decision came amid assertions prison authorities were simply trying to cover up the horrific treatment meted out to Ashley Smith that was captured on video.

In a ruling that took about an hour to decide, Divisional Court Justice Joan Lax dismissed the stay motion.

Correctional Service Canada asked for the emergency halt to the much-delayed inquest to give it time to get the courts to review a ruling by the presiding coroner that the videos should be public.

The videos at issue show, among other things, guards duct-taping Smith to an airplane seat, and forcibly injecting her with “chemical restraints” against her will. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Videos

In arguing the stay, Correctional Service Canada said the videos have not been put into evidence and so should stay out of the public eye until such time as that happens to avoid tainting the jury pool.

Malnutrition

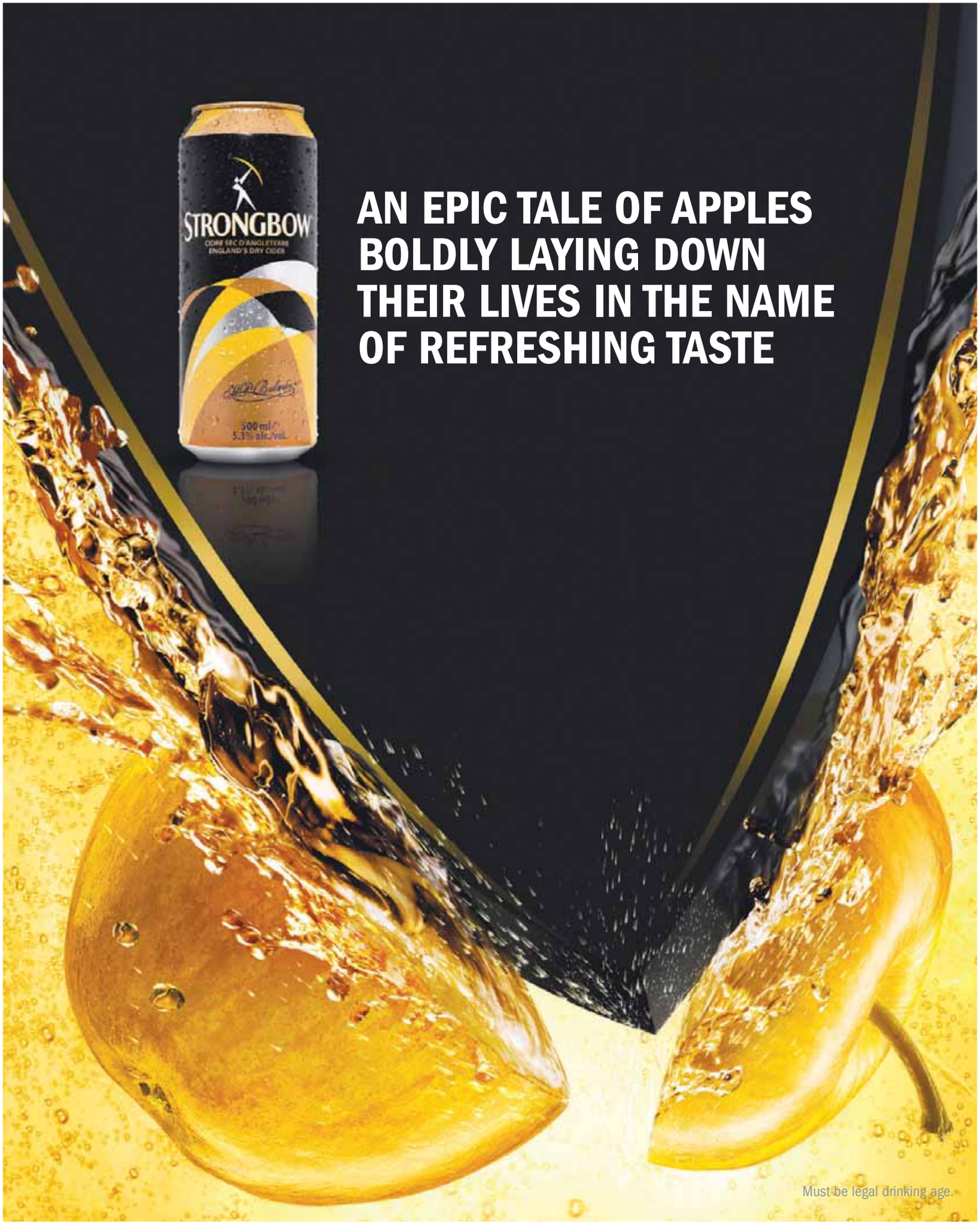
No jail for nurses who let U.S. teen drop to 28 lbs.

Two U.S. nurses have been sentenced to probation in the malnutrition death of a 14-year-old girl who had cerebral palsy and weighed 28 pounds when she died.

Mary Kilby and Kathryn Williams were sentenced in Ohio on Wednesday and will have to surrender their nursing licenses.

The two women had pleaded no contest to failing to provide for a functionally impaired child and had faced up to a year and a half in prison.

The girl’s mother has been sentenced to nine years in prison. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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Waves, brought by Hurricane Sandy, crash on a house in the Caribbean Terrace neighbourhood in eastern Kingston, Jamaica on Wednesday. COLLIN REID/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hurricane Sandy pounds Jamaica

A direct hit. Kingston feels the wrath of fierce storm while Cuba and Florida put on alert

Hurricane Sandy's howling winds and pelting rains lashed precarious shantytowns, stranded travellers and downed power lines Wednesday as it roared across Jamaica on a course that would take it on to Cuba and then possibly threaten Florida and the Bahamas.

Sandy's death toll was at least two. An elderly man was killed in Jamaica when he was crushed by a boulder that rolled onto his clapboard house, police reported. Earlier Wednesday, a woman in Haiti was swept away by a rushing river she was trying to cross.

In some southern towns on Jamaica, a few crocodiles were caught in rushing floodwaters that carried them out of their homes in mangrove thickets, showing up in districts where electricity was knocked out, local residents reported.

Quoted

"For now I'm just hoping the glass windows don't shatter from the winds."

Business traveller Cris Hopkinson of Toronto reacts to the powerful storm which hit Jamaica on Wednesday.

The storm hit Jamaica as a category 1 hurricane then strengthened as it spun over open sea toward Cuba. U.S. forecasters said it had maximum sustained winds 150 kph late Wednesday and might grow into a category 2 storm before going ashore.

Cuban authorities issued a hurricane watch for several provinces while hurricane watches were also posted for the central and northwestern Bahamas and parts of southeast Florida and the Florida Keys.

The storm was predicted to drop as much as 25 centimetres of rain, especially over central and eastern parts of Jamaica, the country's meteorological service said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bishop booted. Revisionist leader who denied the Holocaust expelled

A traditionalist group of breakaway Catholics on Wednesday expelled a Holocaust-denying bishop whose views sparked a major Vatican crisis in 2009.

The Society of St. Pius X said its governing council expelled Bishop Richard Williamson because he ignored a deadline to "declare his submission" to its authority and had called for the society's superior to resign.

A spokesman for the group said Williamson's comments about the Holocaust were part of the reason for his expulsion.

In a 2009 interview with Swedish TV, Williamson denied that any Jews were killed in Nazi gas chambers.

The comments earned him a criminal prosecution in Germany, where Holocaust denial is a crime, and caused great embarrassment to German-born Pope Benedict XVI, who had lifted Williamson's excommunication from the Church on the day the interview was broadcast. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SPEAKING IN SEVERAL TONGUES

2011 census reveals more Canadians are speaking at least two languages at home compared to 2006 numbers; Punjabi and Tagalog are surging, while French and aboriginal languages are on the decline

Bilingualism is surging in Canada, but not necessarily in the country's two official languages.

Statistics Canada released the last batch of data from the 2011 census on Wednesday, this time focusing on about 200 languages that make up the linguistic portrait of the country.

The data suggest that multiculturalism is not simply an abstract concept to describe a motley collection of diverse communities.

Rather, it is a reality for a growing number of families, even within the confines of their own homes.

The census shows that 17.5 per cent of the population — or 5.8 million individuals — speaks at least two languages at home. That's up from the 14.2 per cent of multilingual households counted in the 2006 census, and an increase of 1.3 million people.

Of those 5.8 million, most of them speak English plus an immigrant language such as Punjabi or Mandarin. Less than a quarter — 1,387,190, to be precise — are using both French and English at home.

And aboriginal languages are in outright decline, with usage shrinking 1.7 per cent since 2006 — a loss of 3,620 people despite a concerted effort by many First Nations to revive their culture and language.

"Yes, we see a diversity, but what we see clearly is ... we have all these transition phases where English and French are also spoken at home in addition to non-official languages," said Jean-Pierre Corbeil, the agency's lead analyst on the languages part of the census.

"This doesn't happen only outside Quebec but in Quebec as well."

Corbeil warned, however, that the data likely underestimate the increase in diversity over the past few years. That's because Statistics Canada had to change the way it collects language data after Prime Minister Stephen Harper scrapped the long-form census in 2010.

Wednesday's information came from the mandatory short form that went to every household in Canada. In the past, language was in the long form that went to 20 per cent of households, and was framed in a different context.

The 2011 census numbers suggest that language diversity has been increasing at just half the rate as noted in the 2006 census, but data from Citizenship and Immigration Canada suggest the pace of change is at least the same, Corbeil said.

The census shows that the most common immigrant language in Canada was Punjabi. When Punjabi speakers are grouped together with others who speak a closely related language such as Urdu, their numbers total 1,180,000.

Tagalog, the language of Filipinos, saw the biggest surge, growing by 64 per cent since the last census was taken in 2006.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bojan Djuricic and his wife, Naomi Sutorius-Lavoie, read a Serbian book to their daughter, Mila Sutorius-Djuricic, in Toronto on Oct. 17. Mila will be taught to speak in English, French and Serbian. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

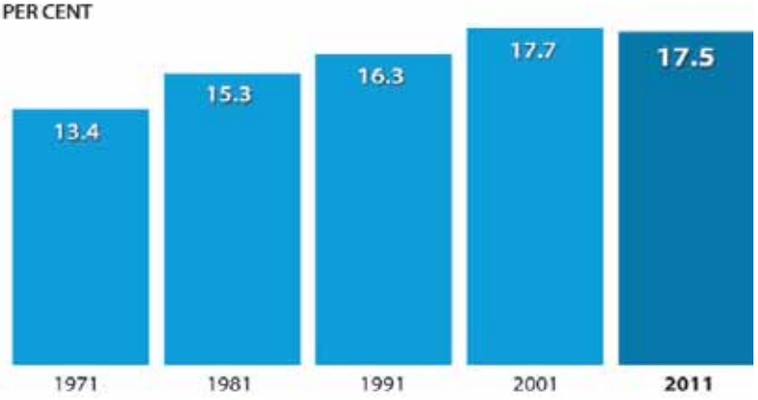
Census highlights

Selected highlights from Wednesday's Statistics Canada release of 2011 census data, focused on language:

- One in five Canadians — some 6.6 million people — reported speaking a language other than English or French at home; 191 distinct languages were among those identified as either a mother tongue or a home language.
- Nearly 10 million people said they could conduct a conversation in French, up from 9.6 million five years earlier; however, as a proportion of the population, those able to speak French slipped to 30.1 per cent, down from 30.7 per cent in 2006.
- The number of people who spoke Mandarin at home grew by almost 51 per cent from 2006 to 2011. Arabic grew by 47 per cent; Hindi by 44 per cent; the Creole languages by 42 per cent.
- In Toronto, Canada's most populous city, 1.8 million people — about 32.2 per cent of the population — reported speaking an immigrant language at home.
- 5.8 million people, about 17.5 per cent of the population, reported speaking at least two languages at home, up from 14.2 per cent in 2006.

BILINGUALISM RATES

A look at the proportion of Canadians who reported being able to conduct a conversation in both official languages:



TOP IMMIGRANT LANGUAGES

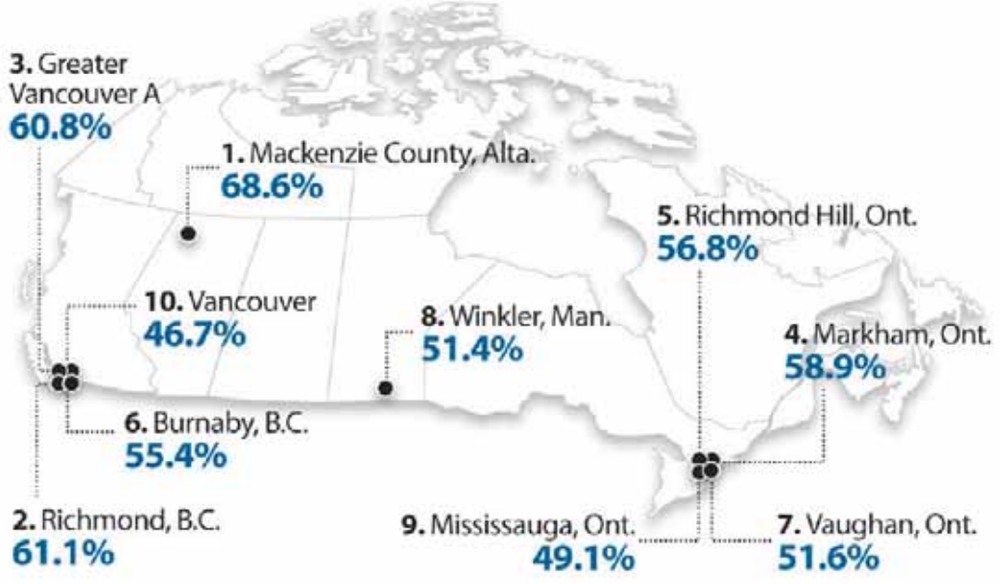
A look at the top non-official languages spoken most often at home:

LANGUAGE	2011 POPULATION	% CHANGE FROM 2006
Punjabi	394,495	25.2
Chinese*	338,795	-6.6
Cantonese	328,855	3.0
Spanish	325,260	32.4
Tagalog	278,640	64.1
Arabic	270,155	46.8
Mandarin	226,065	50.4
Italian	184,175	-5.2
Urdu	164,650	28.8
German	158,035	12.6
Persian	144,010	32.5
Russian	128,675	27.3

*Refers to persons who reported 'Chinese' without specifying further

A DIVERSITY OF LANGUAGES

A look at the communities (population 10,000 or more) with the highest proportion of people whose mother tongue is not English or French:



From left, Kelly Kim, Peter P. and Leon Song practise French and English at a language exchange at the Rivoli restaurant in Toronto on Oct. 10. AARON VINCENT ELKAIM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Multiculturalism on display in language-sharing groups

Not even the relentless throb of a hip-hop beat can drown out the sounds of a typical Tuesday night upstairs at Toronto's Rivoli nightclub.

The top floor of the bustling bar echoes each week with the staccato clack of German consonants, the melodic lilt of Japanese vowels and persistent peals of laughter as more than a hundred aspiring language students struggle to master their new tongues.

The students — from all walks of life and ranging in age from early 20s to late 70s — are members of Toronto Babel, an informal language exchange program that has been giving the city's international community a chance to speak in new and native tongues alike for the past three years.

The din of different languages is loudest in Toronto, where 1.8 million people reported speaking an immigrant language at home, according to fresh 2011 census numbers released Wednesday. Vancouver ranked a distant second with 711,515 people reporting an at-home preference for a language other than English or French, Statistics Canada reported.

Cantonese and Punjabi ranked highest on the list of languages in Toronto, along with other Chinese languages, Urdu, Tamil and Tagalog, which originates in the Philippines.

Eduardo Costa, 39, was recruited in the group's earliest days after advertising online to find an English conversation partner. The initial group of a dozen people quickly began to grow, and Costa found the people he met there began to fill the void left by the friends and relatives he left behind in his home country of Brazil.

"When you immigrate, you lose your family, your friends are still there," he says. "This group became my first new family in Canada."

Smaller Babel groups have sprung up in Ottawa and Kitchener, Ont., Babel co-leader Anna Shalaginova said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

En français

Immersion still sought after

Immersion options in Canada's second official language are broader than ever.

The original programs have been expanded to accommodate a wider range of students, while a new program specifically for kids of francophone families is now in high demand.

The idea has broad national appeal, according to figures from advocacy group Canadian Parents for French, which says more than 30 per cent of students in every province outside of Quebec were enrolled in some form of French-as-a-second-language program in the 2010-11 school year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

According to Statistics Canada ...

1 Up/down. More Canadians speaking French

A sign on the wall of Stephane Wild's restaurant in Winnipeg on Oct. 5. Nearly 10 million people reported being able to speak French in 2011, up slightly from 2006 but down as a proportion of the Canadian population. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

2 Fading out. Just a few native languages still going strong

A stop sign in Mohawk is seen on the Tyendinaga First Nation reserve east of Belleville, Ont., on Oct. 11. Of the more than 60 registered First Nation languages, only a relative handful — such as Cree, Ojibway, Oji-Cree and Dene — remain strong and viable. COLIN PERKEL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

3 Climbing in numbers. Tagalog-speaking population growing

Nearly 279,000 people reported speaking Philippine-based Tagalog most often at home, compared with 170,000 in 2006, an increase of 64 per cent — the largest increase of all the reported languages. JEFF HODSON/METRO

IMMIGRANT LANGUAGES BY CITY

The top non-official languages in Canada's largest metropolitan areas:

TORONTO	%	MONTREAL	%	VANCOUVER	%
Cantonese	8.8	Arabic	17.2	Punjabi	17.7
Punjabi	8.0	Spanish	15.2	Cantonese	16.0
Chinese*	7.0	Italian	8.1	Chinese*	12.2
Urdu	5.9	Chinese*	5.7	Mandarin	11.8
Tamil	5.7	Creole	5.4	Tagalog	6.7

CALGARY	%	EDMONTON	%	OTTAWA-GATINEAU	%
Punjabi	12.1	Tagalog	11.8	Arabic	20.4
Tagalog	10.4	Punjabi	10.9	Spanish	8.1
Chinese*	9.2	Chinese*	8.9	Chinese*	7.5
Spanish	7.9	Cantonese	6.8	Mandarin	4.4
Cantonese	7.4	Spanish	6.5	Somali	3.8

*Refers to persons who reported 'Chinese' without specifying further

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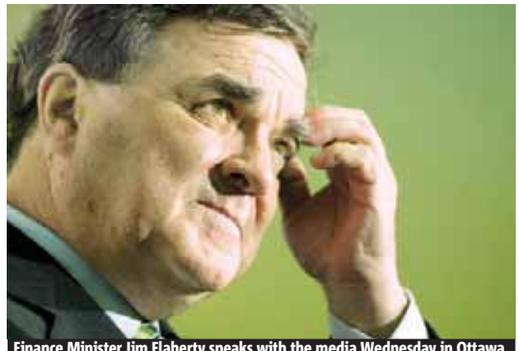
Feds crack down on prepaid plastic

New regulations.
Card issuers will have to be transparent about fees and conditions



Finance Minister Jim Flaherty speaks with the media Wednesday in Ottawa. He announced that the federal government will more closely regulate the prepaid credit card market. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ottawa is stepping in with new rules for the largely unregulated prepaid credit card market.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty announced Wednesday that in the future, issuers of prepaid cards will not be able to impose expiry dates and must be upfront about hidden fees and conditions.

The move is part of the government's expanding code of conduct measures to govern credit and debit transactions, that had previously not applied to the relatively new prepaid market.

"We have done a lot of regulation with respect to debit and credit cards. We haven't done much with respect to prepaid cards," Flaherty said.

While still a small segment of the market, prepaid plastic has become an option for consumers without conventional credit or debit cards, young adults, and for parents who want to introduce their children to using credit while limiting the risk of theft and over-spending.

But the sector has also faced criticism for exorbitant hidden fees that reduced their face value and fooled customers. These can include monthly or annual fees, maintenance costs, as well as ATM charges.

"In our view, it was inappropriate for financial institutions to have cards go dormant. For example, people would get cards as gifts for their birthdays or whatever, not realize that the $200 on the card would expire over a certain period of time," Flaherty said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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TSX 12,195.02 (-30.81)

OIL $85.73 US (-$0.94)

GOLD $1,701.60 US (-$7.80)

Natural gas: $3.45 US (-8.5¢)
Dow Jones: 13,077.34 (-25.19)

Court upholds controversial decision against ex-trader

Societe Generale. Jerome Kerviel plans to appeal ruling that requires him to repay a whopping $6.3 billion

The Paris appeals court on Wednesday ordered former Societe Generale trader Jerome Kerviel to spend three years in prison and pay back 4.9 billion euros (about $6.3 billion) in damages for one of the biggest trading frauds in history.

The 35-year-old Kerviel, who never profited personally from his unauthorized trades, says he was a scapegoat for the bank and a victim of a financial system that runs on greed and profits.

He will appeal his case to the highest court. "I will continue to fight," he said in an interview with RTL radio. "I think the judgment is protecting Societe Generale."

He called on those in the banking industry, notably Societe Generale employees, to step forward and speak up about how the bank's managers knew about the trades.

Quoted

"I will continue to fight. I think the judgment is protecting Societe Generale."

Former trader Jerome Kerviel, in an interview with RTL radio

Kerviel said he had thought the court might acquit him. "What happened today is a call for me to put a bullet in my head," he said, adding that he does "absolutely not" envision suicide. His lawyer, David Koubbi, called the verdict "absolutely lamentable."

A lower court convicted Kerviel in October 2010 of forgery, breach of trust and unauthorized computer use for covering up bets worth nearly 50 billion euros — more than the market value of the entire bank — in 2007 and 2008. By the time his trades were discovered in early 2008, when banks were sliding into a global crisis, he had amassed losses of almost five billion euros on those bets.

The sentence — a five-year prison term, with two years suspended, plus the payback of all the losses he incurred — shocked many in the French public. After a global financial crisis that many blamed on big banks, many believed Kerviel's claim that he was a victim of an unjust system.

The appeals court Wednesday upheld the full conviction and sentence. It did not send Kerviel directly to prison, leaving him free pending his decision on whether to appeal to the Court of Cassation.

Kerviel had sought an acquittal, saying the bank had turned a blind eye to his exorbitant trades as long as they made money. Prosecutors and the bank say that isn't true. Societe Generale lawyer Jean Veil said the verdict was "a great satisfaction." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former Societe Generale trader Jerome Kerviel leaves his lawyer's office on Wednesday in Paris. He said he would continue his legal battle after the Paris appeals court upheld a sentence that requires him to spend three years in prison and pay back about $6.3 billion. REMY DE LA MAUVINIERE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canyon cam. Google's backpack-sized Trekker takes pics of iconic spots

Google and its street-view cameras already have taken users to narrow cobblestone alleys in Spain using a tricycle, inside the Smithsonian with a push cart and to British Columbia's snow-covered slopes by snowmobile.

The search giant now has brought its all-seeing eyes — mounted for the first time on a backpack — down into the Grand Canyon, showcasing the attraction's most popular hiking trails on the South Rim and other walkways.

It's the latest evolution in mapping technology for the Mountain View, Calif., company, which has used a rosette of cameras to photograph thousands of cities and towns in dozens of countries for its Street View feature. With a click of the mouse, Internet users are transported virtually for a 360-degree view of locales they may have read about only in tourist books and seen in flat, 2-D images.

"Any of these sort of iconic, cultural, historical locations that are not accessible by road is where we want to go," said Ryan Falor, product manager at Google.

Google operations manager Steve Silverman walks with a backpack-sized camera called the Trekker on Monday along the Grand Canyon's Bright Angel Trail. RICK BOWMER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Google announced the trekker earlier this year but made its first official collection of data this week at the Grand Canyon.

The backpacks aren't ready for volunteer use, but Google has said it wants to deploy them at national forests, to the narrow streets of Venice, Mount Everest and to ancient ruins and castles. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mobile ad growth. Finally, good news for Facebook stock

Facebook shares posted their biggest single-day gain Wednesday since going public in May, jumping 19 per cent to close at $23.23 US after the social media company made inroads in mobile advertising and posted accelerating growth in overall ad revenue.

It's been a rough five months since the social network's initial public stock offering. But on Wednesday, investors latched on to clear signs of growth in the company's third-quarter earnings report. This week, Facebook also gave details for the first time on how much money it made from mobile ads. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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KEEPING UP WITH BLOODSUCKING VERMIN

HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

Don't be alarmed, but this column may be covered in bedbugs.

I'm not entirely sure if bedbugs have infiltrated my apartment, but I was bitten by SOMETHING recently, so like all chewed-on city dwellers I've been panicked that it could be the little bloodsuckers.

That means if you've touched this column, you should freeze it, steam it, fumigate it, poison it, microwave it, holy-water it and simmer it in a white-wine sauce for 40 minutes, stirring occasionally. Even then, that will only stun the little bug(ger)s, because they're the insect equivalent of the Incredible Hulk.

Once nearly eradicated, bedbugs have made a comeback worthy of a B-list actor in a Tarantino flick.

And they're everywhere.

Online bedbug registries for pre-screening apartments and hotels are useless, because all you learn is that bedbugs are omnipresent — like the body snatchers — and there's nothing us foolish humans can do about it. (Pro tip: If a bedbug rates a location as eight out of 10 or higher and is raving about the buffet, steer clear.)

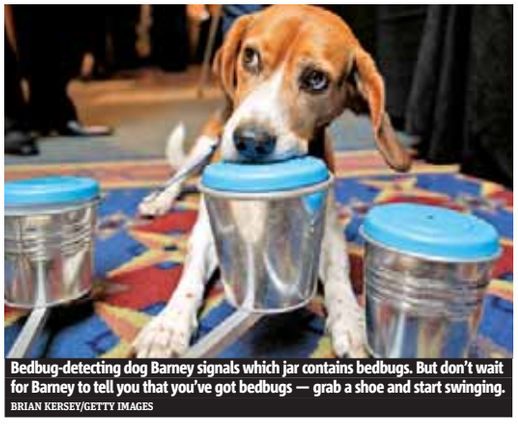
Bedbugs are filling their ick quotient so well that I looked at the welts on my arm and hoped they were from something pleasant, like a spider. If an exterminator looked at my skin and said, "Actually, that's from a wolf" I'd say, "Oh, thank goodness. Do we spray for that?"

There is hope, however. I've been reading up on bedbugs, as one does when you swear you can feel them on your skin at every waking moment. They can be fought, but you need to know your enemy, so here are some myths about the creatures and the reality behind them. Happy hunting!

- **Myth #1:** Bedbugs are invisible.
  Reality: Bedbugs are seldom seen because they only come out at night. They are actually several feet long and live in your closet. Telltale signs include a viscous trail of slime and opened canisters of Pringles.
- **Myth #2:** Bedbugs are a sign of uncleanliness.
  Reality: Bedbugs can live anywhere from the poorest, most squalid apartment to the cleanest hairpiece on the richest Trump. Bedbugs are attracted not to dirt but to sin, which is why they live in your bed. They will migrate to the living room immediately if you turn on the Kardashians.
- **Myth #3:** Bedbug bites come in threes.
  Reality: Bedbugs know you know this, so they sometimes throw in a fourth bite and scurry off, giggling.
- **Myth #4:** You need an exterminator to get rid of bedbugs.
  Reality: All you need for a successful bedbug kill is a shoe. Beat until you see telltale black and blue markings. They'll still be alive at that point, but they'll know who's boss. A Nike shoe will doubly impress them with your alpha-ness, especially later that night when they're nibbling on your earlobe.

And now you know.

Sleep tight!



Bedbug-detecting dog Barney signals which jar contains bedbugs. But don't wait for Barney to tell you that you've got bedbugs — grab a shoe and start swinging.
BRIAN KERSEY/GETTY IMAGES

Psy, this is UN Style

ALLISON JOYCE/GETTY IMAGES

South Korea connection

UN boss horses around with Psy

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon got some dance lessons from compatriot South Korean pop sensation Psy.

On a visit to the United Nations in New York Wednesday, the rapper, born Park Jae-sang, attempted to teach the world's top diplomat the invisible horse trot dance from his global viral hit Gangnam Style.

METRO

UN chief's viewpoint

"I'm a bit jealous. Until two days ago someone told me I am the most famous Korean in the world. Now I have to relinquish. I have no regrets."

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on his countryman Psy

Singer's viewpoint

"To be here and he knows me, even the fact that he knows me is so touching right now, and he's saying he saw my video, he counted my video views."

South Korean rapper Psy on meeting the head of the UN

Gangnam engages

Why Ban wanted to meet Psy

Ban's spokesperson Martin Nesirky told reporters that while the secretary general deals with issues such as Syria, he also considers it important to engage different parts of society.

"He firmly believes music has great power, particularly in helping to overcome intolerance," he said. "It helps to reach out to audiences in a way that many other forms of culture cannot do." METRO

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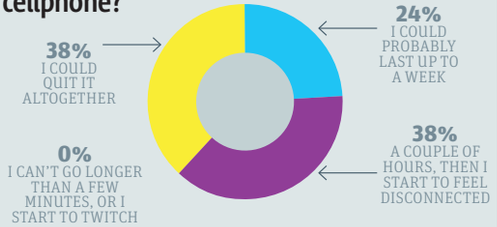
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0%
I CAN'T GO LONGER THAN A FEW MINUTES, OR I START TO TWITCH
38%
A COUPLE OF HOURS, THEN I START TO FEEL DISCONNECTED

Twitter

@bardabus:
Heading to #defendourcoast to link arms at MLA offices across BC to defend our coast from pipelines and tankers! http://defendourcoast.ca/actions

@NaomiAKlein:
Big shout out to all the great folks demonstrating in Victoria 2day. Thanx for defending out coast from tankers! #defendourcoast

@DavidSuzukiFDN:
Across BC, ppl are linking arms outside MLA offices in opposition to pipelines and tankers. http://ow.ly/eJW53 #DefendOurCoast

@Tzeporah:
Diana, resident of @christyclarkbc riding. It's her first protest today since Vietnam! #defendourcoast pic.twitter.com/TUvyW45q

metro

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Blind date turns into bawdy romp in new play

She Stoops to Conquer. Production promises to be 'stylish, funny and entertaining'

BACKSTAGE PASS
Graeme McRanor
vancouver@metronews.ca

There are lots of things to be excited about these days. Ski season is just around the corner, there's a new, smaller iPad coming out, Halloween is next week (candy!) and She Stoops to Conquer is at the Arts Club until Nov. 18.

It's described as a "bawdy romp." And I love a good romp. Especially a bawdy one.

Here's a synopsis: A shy-with-the-ladies gent goes to the country for a blind date, but a practical joke by the lady convinces him that her home is a luxury inn, and that she — and her parents — his prospective in-laws — are the hired help.

Romantic tomfoolery ensues. Local theatre vet Dean Paul Gibson directs.

"I seem to have an ensuring relationship with old plays, particularly the comedies," Gibson says.

"Perhaps because of my affinity for all things stylish, funny, and entertaining, I felt obliged to accept the offer of shepherding this classic comedy back to the stage. With its silly situations and charismatic characters, we can again enjoy the folly of others and delight in the popular theatrical style of another time."

Luc Roderique and Jennifer Mawhinney in She Stoops to Conquer. DAVID COOPER/ARTS CLUB

Written by Oliver Goldsmith, the play was first performed in London in 1773. It stars Norman Browning, Chris Cochrane, Andrew Cownden, Josh Drebit, Jay Hindle, Leslie Jones, Paul Kloegman, Sebastian Kroon, Jennifer Mawhinney, Melissa Oei, Christine Quintana, Luc Roderique, John Voth, and Christina Wells Campbell.

She Stoops to Conquer is at the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage until Nov. 18. Tickets $29 – $65, inclusive of taxes and fees. Visit ArtsClub.com for more information.

A few Vancouver haunts

Halloween's next week, so let's take a look at a few scary adventures you can get up to between now and then.

Halloween Ghost Train: This year's theme is Scary Fairy Tales, and what kid doesn't want to get freaked out by the Pied Piper? The Ghost Train runs until Oct. 31 in Stanley Park.

Dunbar Haunted House: It's in Dunbar, it's pretend haunted, and it's a house. What else do you need to know? Oh, 100 per cent of its admission costs go to charities. Until Oct. 31. Visit DunbarHauntedHouse.com for more info. Potters House of Horrors: In Surrey. Pretend haunted. Not really a house. Also until Oct. 31. Visit PottersHouseofHorrors.com.

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Hanks and Berry have their heads in the clouds

Rare opportunity. Both actors relished the chance to play multiple and very different characters in Wachowski imagining

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Tom Hanks and Halle Berry stretch their acting prowess in Cloud Atlas, which opens Friday. HANDOUT

Actors love a challenge, right?

So the idea of playing as many as six characters across very different time periods — from the 1800s to the post-apocalyptic future — must have been exhilarating for Tom Hanks, Halle Berry and their Cloud Atlas co-stars, right?

"I thought they were all a b—, to tell you the truth. They were all tough," Hanks says with a laugh.

But in all seriousness, playing all those characters — and putting on all the makeup involved in distinguishing them — was far from daunting for Berry.

"They weren't tough at all.

"Honestly, it was like the most fun to stretch.

"I got to play a white Jewish woman in 1930 — like, when would I get to do that?" she asks.

"Like, you just don't get better than having to choose from all these unique people and characters.

"I'll never get to be an Asian man again, probably ever."

One thing Hanks definitely wasn't worried about was looking silly. That's something he stopped doing a long time ago, anyway.

"I've had experiences on a number of occasions where we were going to shoot for something that was going to be very precarious and sometimes it works," he says.

"Like Castaway was a movie where we thought, 'We are breaking every rule here. Is anybody going to give a s— about this guy when he never talks and he's on an island and all it is (is) about falling coconuts?'

"Every movie is a huge minefield that you're walking, not if it's going to be a success but if it's going to be a cohesive story that people get.

"In this case, they just threw so deep and it was so attractive if only for that reason, that you throw your lot in. Otherwise what are you going to do? Only make movies that are guaranteed to work?

"Well, guess what, we could be sitting here talking about Forrest Gump Six, which is a lot better than Forrest Gump Five. Who wants to do that for the rest of their lives?"

But the release of Cloud Atlas is a bit bittersweet, at least for Berry, as she worries she'll never do another film like it.

"I think in my lifetime it's going to take someone to be wildly visionary and willing take the risks," she says of the independently financed $100 million film, directed by Lana and Andy Wachowski and Tom Twyker.

"Not to say it can't be done, I just don't know if the lottery will put my name in another venture like this.

"To be in a movie that's going to envelop these concepts, where you will need one person to play six people — I doubt that they're going to make it again in two years, because we're doing it now."

Hanks agrees with the sentiment, adding that Cloud Atlas may have spoiled the actors, who have to return to more traditional films now.

"We are all spoiled because we always said this: 'The next time we're in a movie, we're just going to play one person,'" Hanks says.

"He might have as many as six costume changes, but it's not going to be the same as playing all of these people."

Paparazzi woes

Berry on playing a journalist

One of the six characters Halle Berry plays in Cloud Atlas — and one of her more prominent roles in the films — is investigative journalist Luisa Rey. So did the role give her any sympathy for the folks who spend their time investigating her? Not so much. "I think journalism definitely has a place in our society, especially good journalism, but I think we've also become a society where we're now focused on little children and what kids are wearing, and that is hard for me to swallow," Berry says. "There are so many more important things to write about in life than what four-year-olds are wearing, and showing kids going to and from school and doing their normal, everyday life seems like such an intrusion, and I think it's taking advantage of what journalism is supposed to be about and what the media is supposed to be all about. I'm wildly frustrated by that."

The paparazzi have so frustrated Berry that she's measured her options of how best to combat the problem and came up with only one possible solution. "We are in a time now where I'm actually having to fight to leave the country that I love because I'm unable to provide a private, secure, safe place for my daughter to grow. Times have changed," she says. "I've realized that all I can really do about it is to remove myself from the situation, because I keep running up against walls that tell me in order to change this I've got to somehow figure out a way to change the Constitution. And I'm smart enough to know I probably can't do that."

Butler has respect for folks who hang 10

Chasing Mavericks. Actor tried riding some of the most dangerous waves in the U.S. to get into character for film about surfing

JOEL AMOS
Metro World News in Hollywood

Gerard Butler had only the most basic appreciation for surfing before he set to work on Chasing Mavericks — and that's putting it mildly.

"I had surfed about three or four times in my life," Butler admits.

The Scottish actor knew he'd have to amp up his game if he wanted to properly capture the essence of surfing great Frosty Hesson, who taught teenager Jay Moriarity (played by newcomer Jonny Weston in the film) to ride mavericks, which are considered the most dangerous waves in the country.

Not one to shy away from a challenge, Butler dove right in — and paid for it with an epic wipeout.

"Jonny Weston and I both surfed mavericks. It was where I was taken down," Butler says with a coy smile.

With the experience of getting pulled under a wall of water, his admiration for what these athletes do only intensified.

"It taught me a lesson. It's not a pleasant experience," he offers.

Even though that moment sent him to the hospital, Butler marvelled at the sport's ability to foster a Zen-like feeling in the surfers as they ride these incredibly dangerous monsters of water.

"It's incredibly meditative and spiritual," Butler explains.

"I found the whole experience really transformative.

"When you get up on that wave and become one with it, you just become one with nature."

The second challenge facing the actor was portraying a real-life individual, and Butler wanted to do Hesson justice as a complex person.

"He's a very philosophical character and he's well-read.

"So I wanted to play that guy who enjoys that, but at the same time, he harbours a lot of pain," Butler says.

"There's the person you experience, but he also now knows the stories being told about him."

It was an effort that mirrored his last film, Machine Gun Preacher, also about a real, larger-than-life personality. "I experienced the same with Sam Childers," Butler explains.

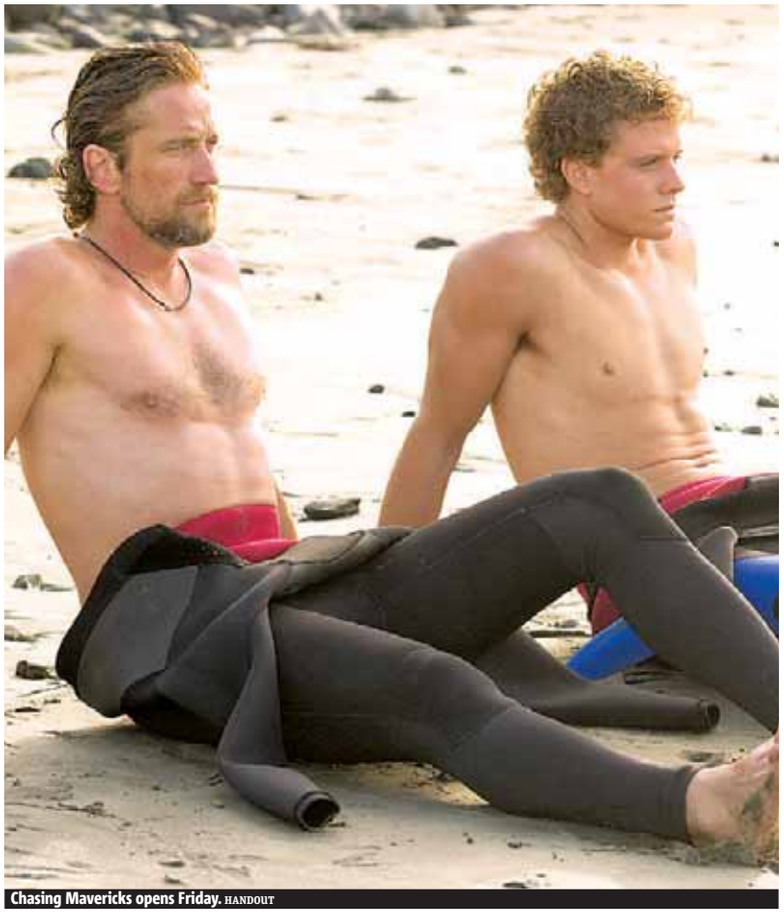
"They become used to telling their story to people who are interested in telling their story, rather than the person who was living the story."

Now that Butler has the experience under his belt, he looks back fondly on the moment he knew that Chasing Mavericks would be his next film — which happened to coincide with a completely different kind of lesson, which found him not in the water, but in the sky.

"I was learning to fly a helicopter along the coast. I saw all the guys on surfboards.

"I was like, 'What am I thinking? I need to get a place in Malibu and I need to take this movie and learn how to surf!'" Butler says.

"I touched down and called them and said, 'Let's do it!'"



Chasing Mavericks opens Friday. HANDOUT

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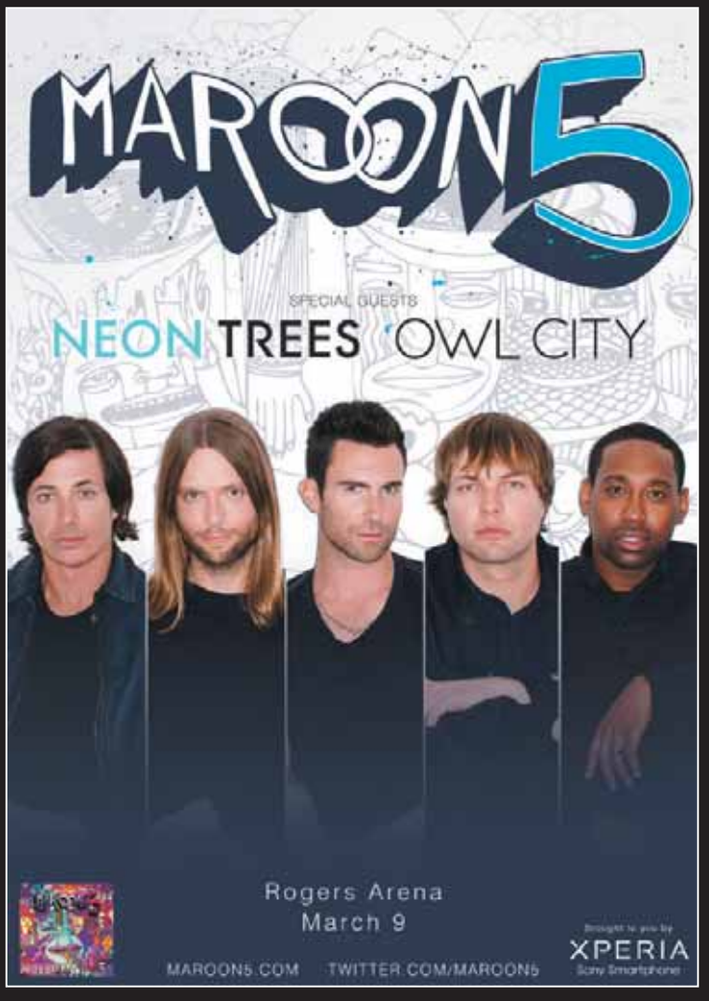

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Moviegoers are in for some ear candy with the premiere of The Hobbit

New sound technology. Dolby's fresh system will make Peter Jackson's next film a sight to be heard

The Hobbit is scheduled to hit theatres on Dec. 14 HANDOUT

Middle-earth will sound more realistic in The Hobbit.

Dolby Laboratories Inc. and director Peter Jackson's Park Road Post Production announced Wednesday that The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey will be mixed and released in Dolby Atmos, the company's immersive new sound system that features two extra arrays of overhead speakers and the ability to direct sounds to individual speakers inside movie theatres.

"(Jackson) felt it was going to make a big difference in how he tells stories," said Stuart Bowling, Dolby's senior technical marketing manager. "He doesn't want people to just go and observe his movies. He wants you to feel like you're part of the experience of the stories that's he's trying to tell on the screen and allow you to be part of Middle-earth."

The director of the Oscar-winning The Lord of the Rings films adapted J.R.R. Tolkien's tale of Bilbo Baggins, set in the fictional realm of Middle-earth 60 years before The Lord of the Rings. Besides the standard 2D format, Warner Bros. Pictures and Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Pictures are releasing the series in high-frame-rate 3D, IMAX and other 3D formats.

Bowling said Dolby's goal is to have the Atmos platform installed in 80 to 100 theatres in time for The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey, which is scheduled to premiere on Dec. 14.

The second and third films, The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug and The Hobbit: There and Back Again, are set for release Dec. 13, 2013, and July 18, 2014.

Other movies slated to be released in the Atmos format include Fox's Chasing Mavericks and Life of Pi. Disney-Pixar's Brave was the first film to debut with the audio format earlier this year.

Bowling said the company expects more than 15 films to be released in Atmos next year and hoped to have the system in 1,000 theatres by the end of next year.

"Dolby Atmos is fantastic from a sound quality position," said John Neill, head of sound at Park Road Post Production. "We can now hear full range surround speakers, meaning that when we pan from the front to surround, the sound does not change in quality. The overhead speakers give us the opportunity to place the theatre patron really in the location."

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Lindsay Lohan. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Linsday Lohan struggling with political choices

Amid all the confusion currently engulfing Lindsay Lohan's personal life, at least the world knew where the troubled actress stood politically — until now. Lohan had previously endorsed Mitt Romney in the U.S. presidential election because "employment is really important right now," according to E! News.

But while live-tweeting the last presidential debate earlier this week, Lohan voiced her support for President Barack Obama by re-tweeting a post from the president's campaign saying she was "proud of Obama."

The tweet was soon deleted, though, so maybe she is on Team Romney after all.

It sounds like the debates were rough on the actress, in any event.

"I'm so relieved that it's over. Maybe more than both of (the candidates). Severe anxiety."

Quote

"I'm so relieved that it's over. Maybe more than both of (the candidates.) Severe anxiety"

Lindsay Lohan
Tweeting about the election debate

The Word

Joe Simpson coming out of Jessica's stylish closet?

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Looks like Ashlee and Jessica Simpson are going to have a lot to talk about around the Thanksgiving dinner table.

First up? Their mother, Tina Simpson, filed for divorce from their father, Joe Simpson, after 34 years of marriage last month.

"It is an amicable split and there is no third party involved," a rep for the family says. "Any other related allegations are completely false. The family appreciates your respect for their privacy at this time."

The allegations they refer to? Well, the National Enquirer is reporting that their father, Joe Simpson, has come out of the closet.

According to the tabloid, Simpson has a 20-year-old boyfriend, who was reportedly in the car with the former youth pastor and Baptist minister when he was busted for a DUI on Aug. 4.

I'll give you a second to let that sink in. Got it together? Good. The National Enquirer even has a source from the family.

"The police report stated that there was someone else in the car with Joe. Some reports have stated it was Tina, but now the belief is that it may well have been a boyfriend."

Of course, there is a good chance this might not be true. After all, if Jessica Simpson's father were gay, don't you think her shoe line would be a little more fierce?

Emma Watson

Emma Watson returning to school

Emma Watson is going back to school. After enrolling in Brown University in the fall of 2009, the British actress took a leave of absence from the Ivy League school in March 2011.

"I love Brown and I love studying pretty much more than anything, but recently I've had so much to juggle that being a student and fulfilling my other commitments has become a little impossible," Watson wrote on her blog at the time.

She then spent her junior year abroad, studying at Oxford University, before delaying her return to Brown once again to film a number of projects this summer and fall. But her rep assures Gossip Cop that she will be back on campus for 2013.

Twitter

@rustyrockets
Mitt and Barrack are not proper names. I'd like an elderly female candidate in a crown.

@CarrieFFisher
I'm a failed anorexic.

@GarryShandling
Like to see a REAL reality talent show: the contestant goes backstage with a Hollywood producer and we never find out how they got the job.

@SarahKSilverman
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DAJANA

In the two and a half years since we last spoke to model Dajana, the 20-year-old has achieved more than many in her profession will hope to in their entire career. Back from Europe to her hometown of Toronto to take on World Mastercard Fashion Week , the five-foot-11 beauty chats with Metro's Elizabeth Beddall about mayhem, McQueen and one major piece of swag

WALKING THE WORLD

So Dajana, what's your schedule been like today?
Woke up at 10 a.m., rehearsal at 1 p.m. for the Pink Tartan show, an appointment at 3:30 p.m. to get my hair and eyebrows done, hair and makeup call at 6 p.m. and show's at 8 p.m.

So a bit of a crazy day for you?
No, actually (laughs). Compared to the other cities, Toronto is very calm and relaxing. In Paris, casting would start anywhere from 7 a.m. onward. I had to learn the metro system, I would be running around all day, all night. There's no such thing as walking! And you're always late. Running from castings to fittings to go-sees until all hours of the night.

So up until this past September, you had modelled only locally so that you could finish high school. What are your thoughts now that you've graduated and gone international?
Now that I've got the ball rolling, I'm not going to stop. Going back to school is a future plan. I want to be a film director, but maybe in a couple of years. I want to see where modelling is going to take me. My next trip is to New York for campaign season.

How does your family feel about all this travelling?
They've been so supportive. If it wasn't for my family I don't know where I'd be ... and Elmer of course.

Elmer Olsen is the agent who discovered you. Can you tell me a little bit about how that happened?
I was shopping in the Eaton Centre with my friend. I heard footsteps behind me, really hard footsteps. I see out of the corner of my eye a tall, white-haired man. I see him running after me. I start to walk faster. He taps me on my shoulder and says, 'Excuse me, are you a model?' I replied no. The reason being — I always wanted to be a model since I was two-feet high. I went to an open call in Grade 10 and I got rejected. After that meeting, I hated everything fashion. So when Elmer scouted me, I didn't want to hear it.

So what changed your mind?
He convinced the friend I was with to help him find me again. She told him where I went to school and he asked one of his former models (who happened to go to my high school) to reach out to me. She did. It means a lot for an agent to go that distance. He claims it was 17 days, four hours later that I called him. He wasn't counting the days, he says.

So on your very first go in Europe, you opened for Roland Mouret, landed an exclusive booking with Jil Sander SS13 and walked for Alexander McQueen. What made you stand out from the crowds of girls that are seen?
I don't know, but I know what the casting directors say: My sense of humour. Fifty per cent of a job is personality. If you get along with your photographer, your stylist, that job can be really fun and it can go by really quickly.

Tell us about waiting backstage to hit the runway at the McQueen show?
I think I was the only model freaking out. They have experienced girls in the shows. Very few of us were brand new.

And when it was over?
At the end of the show, I thought, 'Am I dreaming?'. That was my goal.

My first season? It was so surreal.

And I heard you got a little surprise along the way?
When I was having a fitting and the people at Alexander McQueen said they had a gift for me. (Points to her black smooth calf leather Heroine bag.) I was searching for a bag, too.

So now that you're constantly on the runway, do you have a little something you say to yourself each time you walk out?
Don't fall! (Laughs.) Don't fall. It would be so embarrassing, but you know what? It happens all the time. You just have to get up and keep on walking.

From real world to world runways

Blast from the past...

"The best thing that's happened so far is N.Y. Fashion Week. I'd like to do Paris and Milan..."

Dajana quoted in a Metro feature, published March 29, 2010

An incredible Alexander McQueen oufit worn by Dajana. PROVIDED

Dajana walks for Jil Sander in Milan. PROVIDED

Dajana opens the Roland Mouret show in Paris. PROVIDED

Dajana smooches a McQueen bag that the design house gifted her for doing their show. PROVIDED

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THE REAL ESTATE TUG OF WAR

The average home price in Greater Vancouver fell by about 0.8 per cent in September from what it was a year ago, according to a report by the Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver. The news might provoke a knee-jerk reaction by local media and residents, but the statistic should be taken with a grain of salt, says Eugen Klein, the president of the REBGV.

"People have pretty short-term memories about what just happened in the real estate market," he says, referring to the local 65 per cent average increase in home prices since 2005.

"Two and a half years ago in Richmond, the price of a detached home was going up month after month for three or four months at $100,000 at a time," he says.

Compared to that increase, a 0.8 per cent dip is a drop in the bucket.

ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

The REBGV report showed a drop in sales-to-list ratio, a measure of buying activity, to eight per cent in September. Meaning that only eight of every 100 homes on the market sold. Compare that to 19 per cent just last March.

"It is significant," Klein says. "It is a buyers' market."

That said, there's a tug of war happening between buyers and sellers in Greater Vancouver, Klein says. "Sellers don't need to sell ... and buyers believe that there'll be a better price tomorrow, so they're not pushing ... to make an offer."

Another factor that typically influences homeowners to sell is job loss, but since Vancouver's job market is relatively healthy, local homeowners haven't needed to sell.

These are the overall trends, but the reality for most homebuyers is quite different. Most people are looking to own long term and a home "is not a commodity like coffee or gold," Klein says.

For the typical buyer, an aggregate statistic like this doesn't provide much insight since it glosses over the differences between regions, Klein says.

In Richmond and the West Side, for instance, activity (the sales-to-list ratio) is down 46 per cent, whereas in East Vancouver activity is down by 20 per cent, possibly reflecting the especially steep price increases these areas have seen over the past decade.

On the other hand, there are also places where prices have seen slight increases, such as condos in Port Moody.

"Are there good deals to be had in the marketplace? Yes, there are," Klein says.

INFO AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

BUZZBUZZHOME HAS ALL THE TOOLS

BuzzBuzzHome equips homebuyers with the tools they need to purchase new construction homes.

Since its launch in 2009, BuzzBuzzHome has become one of North America's most popular websites for new condos, homes and townhouses. By allowing purchasers to research new residential developments and connect directly with developers, the company is bringing greater efficiency and transparency to the new development market.

New developments are brought to market, break ground and sell out every week in Metro Vancouver's burgeoning real estate market. While homebuyers may find the market overwhelming, BuzzBuzzHome simplifies the new home search by providing detailed listings of every new home development in British Columbia and beyond. From detailed price lists for the new townhome development in Surrey to photos and renderings of the hottest new condo in downtown Vancouver, BuzzBuzzHome's listings are comprehensive and up-to-date.

Beyond the content-rich listings, BuzzBuzzHome also engages house hunters, real estate aficionados and industry experts in vibrant discussions with its unique chat feature while the BuzzBuzzHome blog keeps readers informed of the latest real estate news across North America.

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It's possible to have a home that's luxurious, green and affordable, according to Lisa Murrell, sales and marketing manager for Appia Developments. Just look to North Burnaby.

The area is flourishing thanks to the Millenium Line SkyTrain and the City of Burnaby's urbanization plans.

That's why Jim Bosa decided to build SOLO District, a four-tower neighbourhood across from Brentwood Town Centre at Willingdon Avenue and Lougheed Highway, which will total about 1,400 new homes once it's complete.

The development's first tower, Stratus, which broke ground in summer 2012, will be 45 storeys with 367 homes, with unparalleled panoramic views of the North Shore mountains, Mount Baker and downtown Vancouver.

There's a great range of homes for buyers of all types, from 479-square-foot junior one-bedrooms to 1,690-square-foot three-bedroom penthouses.

There's also a very limited number of SkyVillas available — penthouse-style units with three bedrooms plus a den on two levels, totalling 1,785 square feet.

Though the prices will start in the very affordable low $200,000's, all Stratus homes will reach a high level of quality. SOLO Districts' distinctive contemporary architecture is designed by Chris Dikeakos Architects and includes a luxurious double-height lobby.

Cristina Oberti Interior Design created two colour schemes for the project — Grigio and Noce. High-quality touches including imported Italian Armony Cucine cabinetry, Kohler fixtures, polished quartz countertops, laminate flooring, custom roller blinds, nine-foot ceilings and over-height, seven-foot doors give the homes simple elegance.

SOLO's green features are just as appealing. The towers will be built to LEED Gold equivalency, including a geothermal exchange system for heating and cooling — a green feature that will also help reduce residents' energy bills.

In case buyers need to use a car, they'll receive a one-year membership to Modo Care Share, with three dedicated vehicles. The parking garages will also have provisions for the installation of electric car charging stations.

At SOLO, quality isn't just about looks. It's about lifestyle.

SALES OFFICE

The sales office is open daily, except Fridays from noon to 5 p.m., at 2131 Willingdon Ave., or call 604-298-8800. Or visit solodistrict.com for more information.

WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

SOLO District is more than the sum of its individual homes. It's the root of a thriving neighbourhood.

The development, which gets its name from its location south of Lougheed, will build on the community surrounding Brentwood Town Centre SkyTrain Station.

Over the past 15 years, North Burnaby has undergone an urban transformation from quiet suburb to busy community hub — in part made possible by the work of Bosa, Appia and Embassy developments, according to Lisa Murrell, sales and marketing manager.

SOLO District is taking this urbanization even further. Once all four towers are completed, the development will feature the highest residential building in Burnaby, aligning with the city of Burnaby's urbanization plan for the area, Murrell says.

"North Burnaby is in its prime years of growth, and the home values will definitely increase as the area continues to develop," she says, adding that SOLO District will boost this process by increasing densification, making North Burnaby one of the fastest growing communities in Metro Vancouver over the next 10 years.

"Now is a great investment opportunity for the area," she says. "There's a home for everyone, the first time homeowner through to the downsizer and everybody in between.

"Even the most budget-conscious first-time buyer is able to get in."

Burnaby residents have been very receptive to the project, she says.

She's seen a wide range of local residents and prospective buyers from all over showing interest in the project, from young buyers to empty nesters.

There's a reason North Burnaby has special potential for growth — it has good bones, she says. The area has its fair share of devoted residents who grew up here and want to raise their kids here, she adds. The area's plentiful green space, access to schools and lack of congestion make it ideal for young families.

And when residents need something, it's usually just around the corner at one of the many shops, restaurants and services within walking distance. Madison Centre is across the street and the nearby Brentwood Mall alone has 150 stores, including Zellers, London Drugs and Starbucks. The most significant addition to the Brentwood area is that SOLO District will be home to Burnaby's first Whole Foods.

CONTRIBUTED

BOSA HOMES: BUILT FOR DIVERSITY

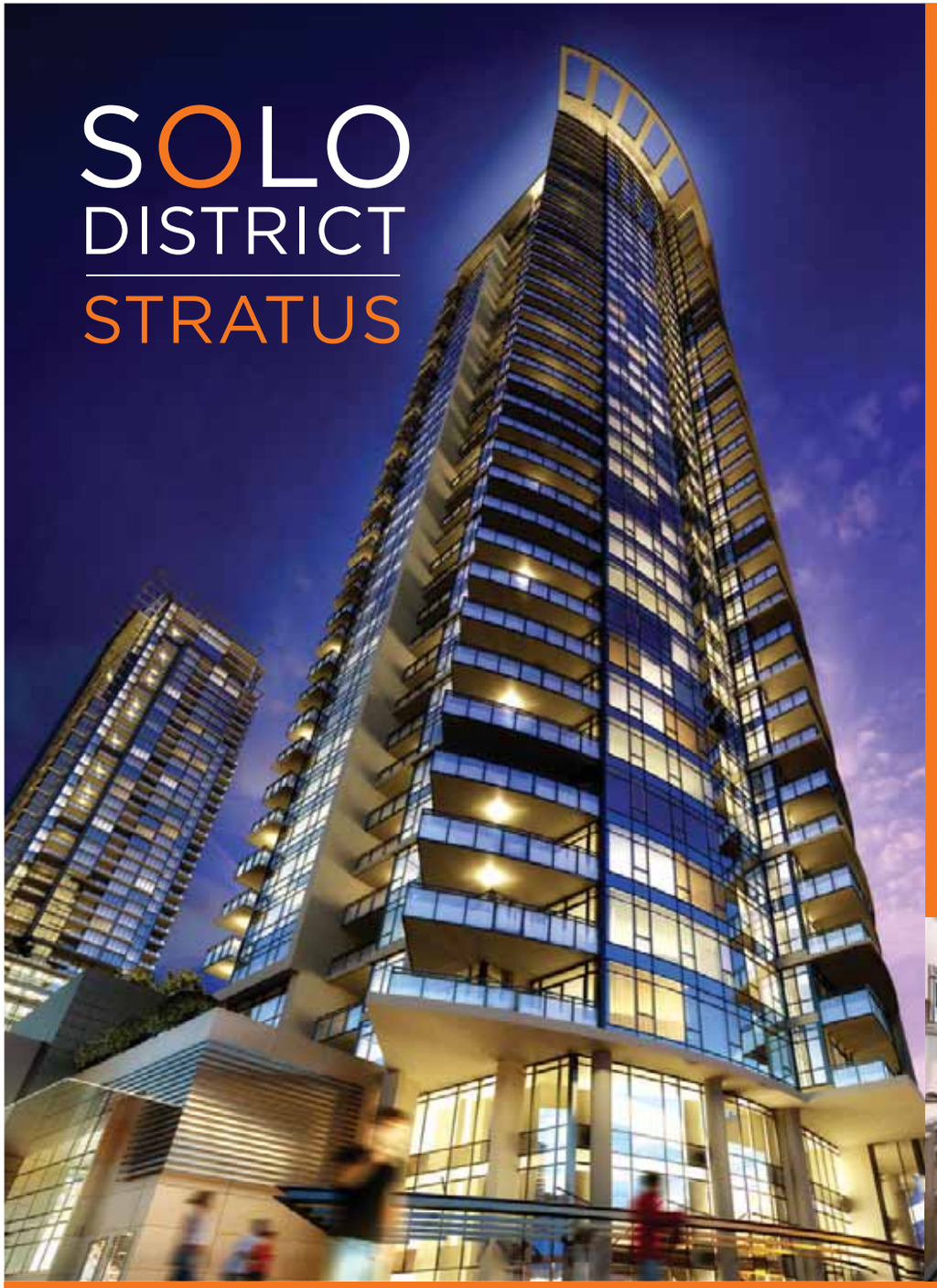
Nat Bosa, president of Bosa Development, established the company's reputation early on by keeping his ear to the ground, anticipating trends and needs in a community, and developing in locations that have potential.

Because of his good judgment, today the name Bosa is synonymous with high-quality homes in great neighbourhoods.

Over the past four decades, the Bosa family of companies has built thousands of homes in B.C., Alberta and California, each of them designed with the flavour of their neighbourhood, so each development integrates into and energizes its community.

It's a legacy proudly continued by Jim Bosa at Appia Developments, the developer of SOLO District in North Burnaby.

When Jim Bosa decided on North Burnaby, he saw a diverse neighbourhood with a lot of potential. North Burnaby has a wide range of residents — a trend that can only increase as the area grows — so homes at SOLO are being built for diversity.



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MAKING YOUR HOME FIT

Homes shouldn't be like clothes — they should grow with you, according to Peter Censorio, owner and CEO of Censorio, a Vancouver-based real estate developer.

Elliot Street, his newest project in New Westminster, is a collection of 130 condos and townhomes designed to adapt to residents.

"What's important to us is that our buyers get a home they'll actually want to live in 10 years down the road," Censorio says. "This is a development that can transition with residents through different stages of life."

In developing Elliot Street, the Censorio team took cues from Censorio's own Italian heritage.

"In many places around the world, families live in small spaces," he says. "There's a lot of sharing. That's how my parents were brought up."

Elliot Street was created to maximize space and to create lots of sharable, multi-use rooms. It's an approach that makes Elliot Street homes, which range from 446 square feet for a studio to 1,342 square feet for a two-bedroom and den townhouse, seem more spacious than they are.

The homes come with smart features including a large sliding door to the bedroom that helps create an open living space.

A moveable kitchen island can transform into a dining room table or a bar, and can be moved out of the way when residents need the extra floor space.

The Censorio team has rethought a lot of the basics that go into making a house. Take closets, for instance. They are underrated, according to Censorio.

The closets at Elliot Street can double as dens, studies, nurseries, or any other option residents choose. A storage room in the basement just isn't convenient.

In all of these features, long-term livability is the goal.

It's a concept that the Censorio team also applied to the homes' interior design. Elliot homes will be built with classic finishings chosen to last: Tile, laminate floors, stone countertops.

With 60 units priced at less than $300,000, Censorio is making his condos financially as well as spatially flexible. "We really focused on affordability with this development," he says.

Registration for Elliot Street is now open. Visit censorio.com to learn more.

HELPING SHAPE FABRIC OF A COMMUNITY

In North Burnaby, where Peter Censorio grew up, everyone knew everyone. Now with his first housing development in North Burnaby, called Altezza, just completed, those relationships have carried forward.

The owner and CEO of Censorio, a real estate development company, says his values are firmly planted in community.

"You get to know the neighbourhood where you're building," he says, explaining that as a kid he played soccer with some of the local North Burnaby shop owners.

Censorio thinks it's important to involve the local business community in the company's projects, giving local retailers the chance to lease in new buildings, rather than leasing the space just to large chain stores.

"Those small businesses are a major part of the fabric of our community," he says. "They're what we grew up with. We're trying to retain that."

For Censorio it's not just about building homes. It's about helping shape how people live.

NEW WEST AN OBVIOUS CHOICE FOR ELLIOT STREET

Densely populated areas are the future of Metro Vancouver real estate, but that doesn't mean residents should compromise on quality of life, according to Peter Censorio.

New Westminster provides the locale for his latest project, a 130-unit condo and townhouse development called Elliot Street, to start selling later this year.

For Censorio, New Westminster was an obvious choice. "There's so much variety to be had here. It's got that rich history and a great diversity of small local businesses that makes it unique."

But it was more than just the city's history that inspired Censorio and his team.

Now Censorio is seeing the beginnings of what he thinks is a real change for the city, with the city of New Westminster investing in significant new infrastructure including a new civic centre, upgraded park and public space on the waterfront and even a new elementary school under development a short distance from Elliot Street.

"The school was one of the things that really got me excited about this project," Censorio says. "It's showing a real investment in the future.

"It's exciting to be part of an area that's going through rapid change. We want to focus on helping shape how people live in the context of the community."

The Censorio team is working with the city to make the development pedestrian oriented.

"We're trying to create a sense of neighbourhood," Censorio says, adding that Queen's Park and the SkyTrain are a very short walk from Elliot's front door.

"As a developer, you have to go into a neighbourhood with a sense of what the community will be like in five, 10, 20 years," Censorio says. A city that's adding more infrastructure creates more investment opportunities for developers and for buyers, he adds.

"It's something that's really going to change the neighbourhood. Ten years from now people are going to be looking at their home here as one of the best investments they've ever made."

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PARKS ARE AN UNDENIABLE DRAW

There's just something about green. No matter how fancy a home is, if it doesn't have green space nearby, it's missing something. Green space adds quality of life that's impossible to get any other way.

This was the mindset of Dava Developments and Oris Consulting when they took on the development of Parc Riviera, a master-planned community of condos and townhomes in north Richmond on the banks of the Fraser River. As a result, the development has more than five acres of green space.

The park in Parc Riviera has been an undeniable draw for homebuyers, says Dave Bauman, marketing director for development, which is now in its first phase of construction. "The lawns, the trails, the gardens and the park space really set these homes apart."

Sixty-five per cent of the area of the first phase, which began selling in October 2011, will be devoted to green and open spaces.

The two major parks in the community — the west park and central park — give owners and Richmond residents opportunity to access green space on the riverfront.

The green space is woven among the condos and townhomes so that every unit has green space and lush landscaping at their doorsteps.

That's not to mention the development's waterfront location. Parc Riviera condos and park space are waterfront property, edged by 4,000 feet of dike trail running along the river.

It's a place the whole community can use for exercise or just enjoying the scenery, Bauman says.

The whole community will also be able to enjoy the area's trails, kids' play areas, a picnic area, a stage for community performances, tennis courts and sunset seating on the master-planned community's 20 acres of waterfront.

Of course, the community wouldn't be complete without outdoor art dotting the parkland, including a playfully outsized stainless steel raindrop called Water #10, by Chinese sculptor Jun Ren.

"The park space is very much the heart of this development," Bauman says. "It's what makes this place great for everyone and distinguishes Parc Riviera as a special place to live."

HOMES TO GROW IN

High quality park land and a spectacular view of the river wouldn't be complete without a beautiful home to enjoy them from. That's the philosophy behind Parc Riviera.

Many of the one- to three-bedroom townhomes and apartments in the development's first phase of four buildings will look out over the Fraser River and North Shore mountains, some of the best views in the city. Builders broke ground on the first phase in June 2012.

The apartments will range from 519 to 1,300 square feet, and the townhomes will be about 1,100 square feet.

The nine-foot ceilings will let in lots of light and give the homes a sense of space, and the oversized balconies will fit four around a table, plus a barbecue, for a more private enjoyment of the view, says Dave Bauman, marketing director for development.

Parc Riviera amenities make the indoors just as appealing as the outdoors. They include solid quartz countertops, engineered hardwood floors and high-end stainless steel GE Café appliances with a five-burner gas range.

The development's geo-exchange system will help provide efficient heating in the winter and cooling in the summer, and will help residents cut down their utility use. "You can save some money and it's environmentally responsible," Bauman says.

Both developers, Dava Developments and Oris Consulting, consider sustainable living a priority in their projects, and both have a proven track record in Richmond.

The homes are meant to appeal to a wide range of people, and the prices reflect that, Bauman says. "The place is right for so many lifestyles. Everyone from first-time buyers, to young families to empty nesters. Prices start at about $250,000 for a one-bedroom condo.

"Buyers have a good range of choice between type of homes and price points."

At-grade parking, accessible via an underground parkade, makes the development's ground level pedestrian friendly and increases the safety and community-friendly feel of the area.

"That's just one of the smart features we built in to make Parc Riviera an inviting place to be," Bauman says.

PARC RIVIERA RESONATING WITH PEOPLE

By far the reason why people are buying homes at Parc Riviera, in North Richmond, is the development's lifestyle and community design, explains Dave Bauman, marketing director for development.

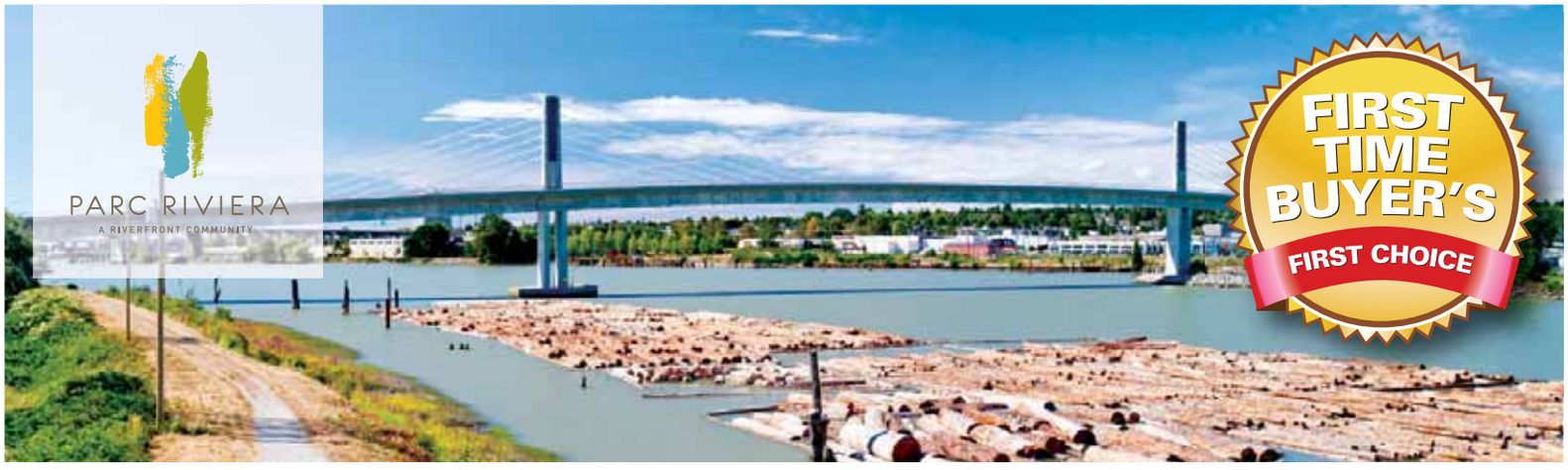
"The fact that it's a master-planned community is resonating with people as they walk in the door," Bauman says.

The outdoor space is where owners can spend time with their kids, but still a place that has the feeling of being a community.

The full development will also include commercial space and even daycare, and should residents need to venture from the oasis, they can easily access shopping nearby along the Bridgeport corridor, and Bridgeport SkyTrain Station along the Canada Line is just a 10-minute walk away.

Parc Riviera's exclusive features will help create a nucleus for the community. Residents can hold get-togethers in the multi-use, standalone private recreation centre, Club Riviera.

"It's essentially a clubhouse where you get to know your neighbours," Bauman says.



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DAVA DEVELOPMENTS ORIS

NEW GENERATION OF HOMEBUYERS

PROGRESSIVE MC² SNUG IN TRANSIT HUB

A home in downtown Vancouver is no longer the Holy Grail for young homebuyers in Metro Vancouver. These days, homes close to public transit hubs are the real treasure.

"Today's homebuyers are looking for a home that has it all in one spot, with easy access to shopping, entertainment and public transit," says Bob Rennie, owner/founder of Rennie Marketing Systems, the marketing company for MC² , a condo development at Cambie and Marine Drive. "It has to be convenient for commuters, and it has to be affordable."

He's seeing younger buyers entering into the marketplace — often with some help from parents or grandparents on the down payment. "We're expecting a significant proportion of MC² buyers to be first-time buyers," Rennie says. "Successful real estate developments in today's market are those designed for today's buyer — not just for the generations that came before — and that's what Intracorp has done with MC²."

A survey of the buyers of Rennie's former project, Marine Gateway, situated across the street from MC² on SW Marine Drive, showed that almost 30 per cent of buyers had received some kind of help from their families in buying a home there.

It's one indication that the younger generation is doing things a little differently than their parents did.

Cars are another example, he says. Young people today aren't as married to their cars. Some homes in MC² don't even come with a parking space, which allows buyers to purchase for a lower price.

Instead, the younger buyer wants a home that's close to public transit, Rennie says. MC² is across the street from Marine Drive Station on the Canada Line, which has been a major draw for prospective buyers, he says.

They are drawn to the development's accessibility in other ways, too. For those who bike to work or school, MC² is located on a major bicycle route. And the immediate surrounding neighbourhood is burgeoning with places to eat, shop and find entertainment.

MC² is also progressive in its green design. The development is designed to meet LEED Gold equivalency, with energy-efficient, European designed JAGA passive cooling units in all bedrooms, motion sensor lighting, high-water efficiency plumbing fixtures, Energy Star appliances and a green podium roof on the North Tower.

CONTRIBUTED

The development was designed by James Cheng Architects, a well-known, Vancouver-based architecture firm whose other work includes River Green at the Richmond Oval, the Fairmont Pacific Rim and Vancouver's tallest building, the Shangri-La.

CAMBIE CORRIDOR COMES TO LIFE

"We're witnessing a sea change in the way Metro Vancouverites live, and much of it is rooted in an unprecedented increase in public transit use," according to Bob Rennie, owner/founder of Rennie Marketing Systems, the marketing team for MC².

Since the Canada Line was built in time for the 2010 Winter Games, public transit ridership has increased in record numbers. According to a TransLink report in 2011, ridership had increased four per cent over the year before — setting the public transit provider's 10th annual record.

Seven thousand people have already registered on the interest list for MC². The development has received an enthusiastic response from the public during previews leading up to its sales launch on Oct. 27, and Rennie thinks it's related to the development's transit accessibility.

From Marine Drive Station, downtown Vancouver is only 17 minutes away, Oakridge mall is five minutes away, Aberdeen Centre in Richmond is four minutes away and you can get to Vancouver International Airport in just nine minutes.

But living at MC² isn't just about how easy it is to travel away from home. The core idea behind the development is to allow residents to spend less time commuting — and more time living.

The two-tower development's clean lines, quality concrete construction and high-standard finishings set a clean slate for residents to create any environment they choose, Rennie says.

"It gives you a nice backdrop for your life," he explains.

Armony Cucine kitchen cabinets, made in Italy, lend each condo a clean, minimalist look. Gourmet appliances including a Blomberg cooktop, convection oven, fridge and dishwasher, plus Caesarstone countertops provide an ideal set-up for those who love to cook and entertain. One-bedrooms start at 442 square feet and two-bedrooms range from 735 to 1,042 square feet. Generous outdoor balconies and patios provide functional outdoor living areas. The panoramic views don't hurt either.

The neighbourhood, called the Cambie Corridor, was awakened from its status as a quiet suburb by the opening of the Canada Line SkyTrain along Cambie Street in 2009. Since then, Cambie Street has come into its own with a network of shops, restaurants and services clustered around each station.

Sales at MC² start at 9 a.m. on Oct. 27. Visit mc2living.com for details. The MC² presentation centre is located at 8160 Cambie St. (at Marine Drive) and is open daily for previews from noon to 6 p.m.

THE PRICE IS RIGHT

MC² has the rare combination of being located in an up-and-coming neighbourhood and having an affordable price, says Bob Rennie, owner/founder of Rennie Marketing Systems, the marketing company for MC². With homes starting at $259,000 for a one-bedroom and $439,000 for a two-bedroom, the development's prices have undeniable draw. Two-hundred and thirty of the homes are priced less than $350,000.

"Over half of the 443 homes you can buy with an income of $60,000 a year," Rennie says. It's a very good place to start as a first-time homebuyer. He expects the average buyer to be relatively young, with somewhat different interests and values than their baby boomer parents.

They're focused on maximizing their quality of life, but that doesn't necessarily mean being car dependent or living in a huge home. This generation wants a high quality home that makes efficient use of space, located close to everything they need.

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COMMUNITY ON THE RISE

ENGLISH MEWS IS A NEW COMMUNITY IN QUEENSBOROUGH

You work hard and you've done well. It's time you lived in a home that proves it.

English Mews is a new community designed for people like you. Developed by the Tien Sher Group of Companies, English Mews is a collection of fine townhomes, centrally located in the Queensborough neighbourhood of New Westminster. Starting at just $314,900, these homes are selling quickly and it's easy to see why.

English Mews townhouses have every amenity a young couple or family is looking for.

They are spacious, averaging 888 square feet for homes with two bedrooms and up to 1,388 square feet for homes with three. Interior spaces are wide, with a clean, contemporary look complemented by natural light from oversized windows and patio doors. Open-air balconies give you even more room to move around.

English Mews townhomes are located near the Queensborough Community Centre, and only minutes from the New Westminster Quay and many trails along the Fraser River and Ryall Park. Your new home will be walking distance from a medical clinic, a dentist's office, and a pharmacy, plus an elementary and middle school. A quick stroll will take you to Walmart, Best Buy, Home Outfitters, Boston Pizza, Starbucks, Tim Hortons, and even the Starlight Casino, all located at Queensborough Landing.

Want to travel further? English Mews is less than five minutes away from the SkyTrain — meaning you're never too far from Vancouver, Burnaby, New Westminster, Surrey, or Richmond.

Located in the heart of the Lower Mainland, Queensborough epitomizes a community on the rise. English Mews townhomes reflect this change, too. Designed by the award-winning Cotter Architects, they project modernity, beauty, and confidence through exterior wood detailing, brickwork, and hardy siding and boards. They feature classic, solid entry doors and decorative lighting inside, highlighting a custom colour scheme. As members of a true neighbourhood you and your fellow residents will enjoy an elegant and relaxing outdoor common area that includes an eco-sensitive dry creek.

This is only the beginning. To see an English Mews home for yourself, visit Tien Shen's presentation centre at 1135 Ewen Ave., Unit 15, in New Westminster. The presentation centre is open every day except Friday from 1- 5 p.m.

To learn even more about English Mews, visit tiensher.com or phone 604-517-1688.

MAKE QUATTRO 3 YOUR HOME IN SURREY

Surrey is in transition. It is Canada's fastest growing city, boasting a downtown that's becoming the envy of other cities its size. People want to make this place their home.

Purchase a condominium at Quattro3 and you can.

Located at 10768 Whalley Blvd., Quattro3 is part of a highly successful property development created by the Tien Sher group of companies. It offers one- or two-bedroom suites, low-priced junior one bedrooms, and a two-level loft suitable for residential or business use.

Though near to many of the attractions that make Surrey great, Quattro3 itself is a quiet place, nestled just beyond the city's busy downtown. Its outdoor spaces boast landscaped courtyards, a childrens' playground, park benches, decorative trellises, and more. This is a fully formed community, perfect to relax in, have fun in, and raise a family in.

Quattro3 condominiums are priced from $159,900 including net HST (for a limited time only), and are available for move in today.

To learn more about them, visit tiensher.com or phone 604-581-8000.

TIEN SHER BALANCES COMFORT & CONVENIENCE

Balance — it's something every modern homeowner seeks. Balance between comfort and convenience, amenities and price. Finding it isn't easy.

The Tien Sher group of companies knows this. That's why they have chosen Balance as the name for their newest development, located in the Surrey City Centre's Gateway District.

Balance will be a four-storey building with 56 micro suites: Canada's tiniest condominiums, measuring as little 290 square feet. In the Lower Mainland, where real estate prices are among the most expensive on the continent, smaller is a big advantage.

"We wanted to build suites that renters could afford to purchase today," says Charan Sethi, Tien Sher's president.

"With suites starting at $109,900, if you can afford the $6,000 down payment, and you make a salary of $17 per hour, we have a home for you."

Each of these homes will contain five stainless steel appliances, hardwood floors, and a balcony. Parking stalls will be available for purchase.

If you don't wish to own a car, transportation will still be a snap — the Balance property is a mere seven-minute walk from the Gateway Skytrain Station on 108th Avenue. Balance residents will also have easy access to bus routes, and a shared vehicle located onsite.

Emulating a housing model already popular in high-cost municipalities around the world, Balance represents the new direction of Lower Mainland living. Tien Sher is committed to keeping these micro suites affordable — in fact, they will be the lowest priced homes in the region. If you are a young professional, a retail employee, a single parent, or anyone else looking to manage your cost of living in this pricey part of B.C., all of this is good news.

Tien Sher expects to begin sales of its Balance micro suites early in the new year.

To learn more about Balance, visit tiensher.com or phone Caroline Jeklin at 604-314-1739.

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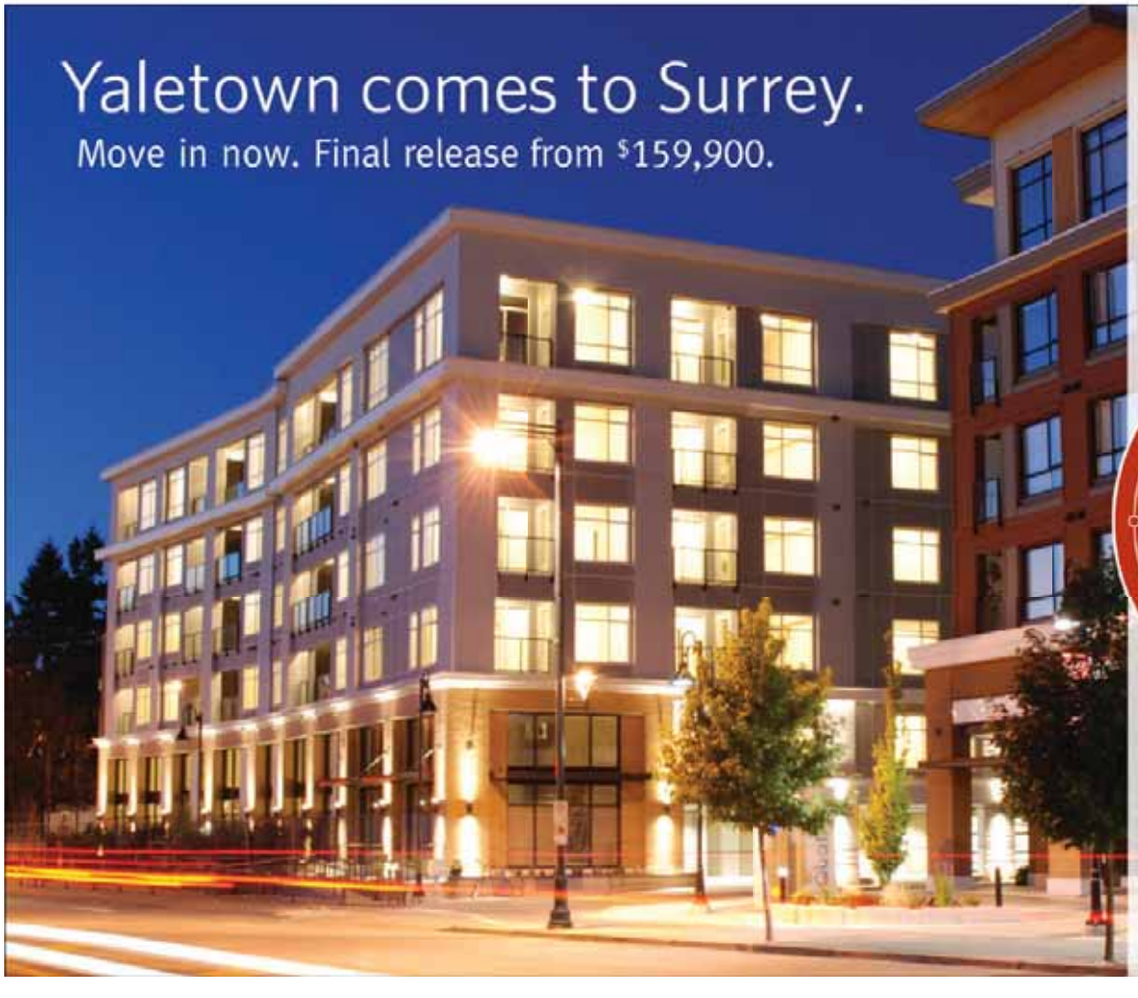

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Located in the new Surrey City Centre, Quattro3 is perfectly situated for the buyer who wants everything in walking distance. Gateway Skytrain station, City Centre Mall, Simon Fraser University Surrey Campus are only minutes away.

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CHOOSE BETWEEN TWO DEALS

AT BRICKSTONE WALK2 IN NEW WEST

COURTENAY PHOTO

Brickstone Walk2 (BSW2) in New Westminster is beautiful, well priced and selling briskly by all accounts. Why then would the owner/developer want to offer even more benefits to the buyer? The motivation is sincere, and a genuine way to reach out to people who really appreciate what quality and commitment are all about.

Starting this week, if you purchase a townhome at Brickstone Walk 2, you can choose between a zero down payment program to hold your home until completion or a whopping 10 per cent interest on your deposit of up to 10 per cent of the purchase price. Both of those offers are spectacular and benefit different types of buyers.

One scenario is when a potential buyer comes into Brickstone and loves the big rooms, the granite and stainless steel finishes … all the bells and whistles, but may have a cash crunch due to a pending sale of another property or other financial challenges. In the "old days" that might have been the end of the negotiations, but now you can secure your new home at BSW2 and have all kinds of time to sell your other home, move money around in an RRSP or whatever financial need you have that just requires a bit of time.

Another example is a young couple with lots of income but only a small of savings for a down payment. Securing your home now and having about 18 months to save while BSW2 is being completed just makes good sense.

And what about the 10 per cent interest? Why would a buyer choose that option? Well, what if you are an active trader in real estate or stocks? Or what if you really just don't like your deposit sitting (safely) in trust but not generating any kind of return while your new home is under construction? This new offer solves that problem.

The developer of BSW2 has recognized that while deposit money is important, having your money work for you is equally important. So if you put down a deposit of 10 per cent you will receive an interest rate of 10 per cent annually for the entire time that your money is in trust. To put in it into real terms, that could mean earning up to nearly $5,000 in interest. Amazing! This money will be credited to you on the day you transfer the title of your house.

So it seems that BSW2 is the real deal — the whole package. Fabulous homes in a great location, superb finishing and design, tremendous value and now, combined with a choice of offers, too good to refuse.

For more, call 604-376-8060 or visit the sales centre at 306 6th St. right away.

$0 DOWN
OR
EARN 10%
INTEREST ON DEPOSITS UNTIL COMPLETION

Some conditions and restrictions apply

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PHASE 2 NOW SELLING!

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Brickstone Walk 1 sold out quickly and BSW 2 is also selling fast! Don't miss your chance to own our timeless brick townhomes with entertainment sized balconies and extraordinary interiors. Sparkling quartz counter tops and gleaming stainless steel give you the best of modern living. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to live only a few minutes from the Skytrain, Pier Park, theatres, restaurants & more... Act fast as this offer applies to the first 5 homes only!

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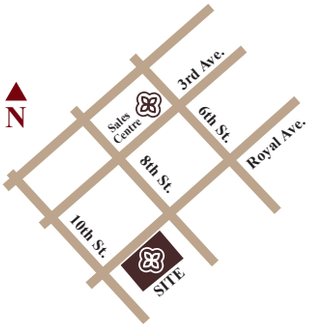


This is not an offering for sale. Any such offering can only be made with a disclosure statement. The developer reserves the right to make modifications to the information contained herein. Prices are subject to change without notice. E.&O.E.
Developed by **Nu-Gen Projects Ltd.** Marketing & Sales by **Pilothouse Real Estate Inc.**

Helping a living room grow up

I live alone in an apartment that I rent. My living room is a good size (12-by-16) and I get nice sun light. I want to redecorate, and I am sick of seeing my oversized brown couch. I don't want my small apartment to look small and want it to feel more grown up.
-Sandra, Montreal

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Find a few things in the room that you love and build the room around them.

The rug, for instance, is a classic, and although pink, Persian-style rugs are not the biggest rage at this time, your quality rug can stay in the room as long as you build around the colours and classic style. I have chosen a palette of greys and pinks to play off the carpet and give the room a sophisticated, feminine look.

The first thing to do is to get your furniture ordered, which will often take a few weeks. This will give you time to clear out the living room and paint the walls. Wait until the furniture is in place before deciding on lighting, artwork and small accessories. This will give you a better idea as to what is needed.

Designer touches

- Hang a large mirror over your new sofa to bounce light into the room.
- Add dark grey drapery panels on each side of the window to soften the room.
- Choose a medium-wood tone for picture framing in the room to tie in the floors and furnishings.
- Add decorative cushions — patterned ones on the plain sofa and plain ones on the patterned chairs.

Before

Sandra's living room needed to grow up in terms of style and decor.

Paint

The simplest way to change the look of the room is to add colour to the walls. I suggest a deep pink brick colour. This will help tie in the Persian-style rug that is currently in the room. Lip Gloss, Benjamin Moore.

New sofa, $2,100

I suggest a foggy blue/grey coloured sofa to help cool down the room and give it a sophisticated feel. Tailor Sofa, Crate & Barrel.

TV stand, $600

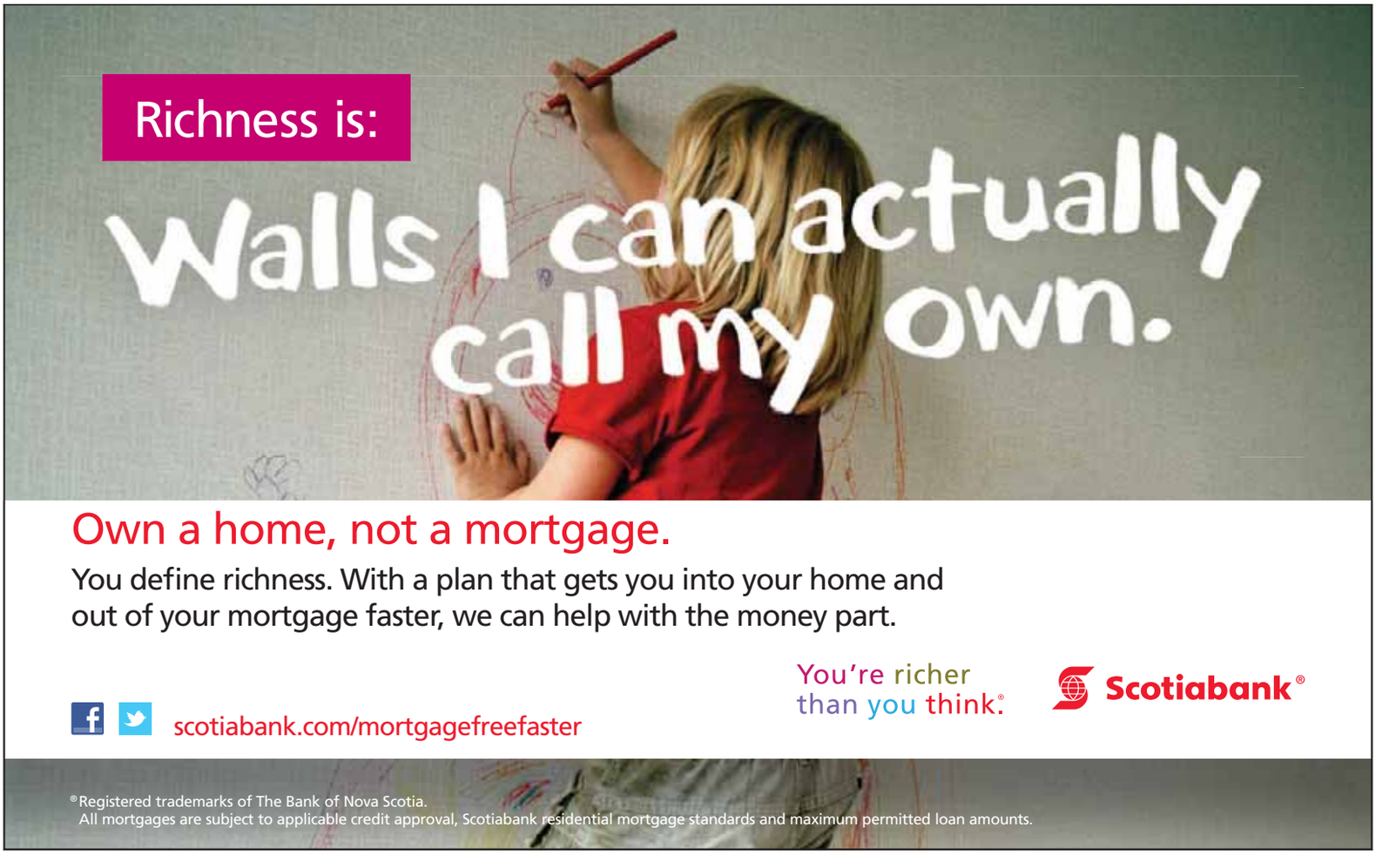
A sleek media centre will be a better option than the crate that currently holds the television. Demio Media Shelf, Structube.

Side chairs, $600

Purchase two upholstered side chairs and place them in front of the window, separated with a small side table. RUSS Chair, Urban Barn.

Storage, $650

Ground the entrance wall with a stylish wardrobe to keep coats, shoes and sports equipment hidden away. PAX Wardrobe, Ikea.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Pros share their pumpkin-carving secrets

Halloween. You can't stop your pumpkin from deteriorating, but there are some 'delay tactics'

Think you know the latest tricks for carving a creepy pumpkin? The pros continue to push the barriers.

A handful of people become professional pumpkin carvers each fall, specializing in fantastical designs. Among them are Alex Wer, self-proclaimed pumpkin geek, who lives near Sacramento, Calif., Scott Cummins, a Perryton, Texas middle-school art teacher and Marc Evan and Chris Soria, the Maniac Pumpkin Carvers of New York City.

Wer does his carving between insurance sales and an evening package-delivery route.

He works with the fake, foam pumpkins sold at craft stores, so his intricate work has longevity. Evan and Soria drop their jobs as illustrators for a few months to carve pumpkins for festivals, parties and individual clients. The long hours leave the two childhood friends battling sore wrists and aching backs by late November.

"It's a labour of love," says Evan, who also carves pumpkins on the Food Network's Halloween Wars this season.

Here are some of their tips of the trade:

1. Choose your pumpkin wisely

"You want to have a stem, and you want it to be a healthy stem, because that stem is still providing nutrients for the pumpkin," says Soria.

Don't cut into your pumpkin around that perfect stem. Instead, access the pumpkin from its backside to help preserve freshness. Cutting out a stem cap weakens the Jack-o'-lantern, says Evan. And hiding the opening in the back gives the pumpkin more visual punch.

"It's esthetically more pleasing seeing the glow from (only) the design, not creeping out from where we might have cut the hole at the top," says Evan.

2. Preparing your pumpkin

Before carving a face, scrape and clean the inside of the pumpkin. The cleaner you get it, the longer it will last.

"I always tell people, 'Gut it out twice as much as you think you need to,'" says Wer. "It should be very dry inside."

3. The carve

Folks, there are two kinds of pumpkin carvings — the lighted Jack-o'-lantern face and the three-dimensional sculpture, in which a pumpkin is treated like a block of wood — only stinky and less permanent. The Maniac team carves both styles. Cummins carves in creepy 3D. The tools are the same, but they're used in different ways.

Take either carve up a notch by adding depth and texture. Wer carves up to five layers in his faux pumpkins to get a mix of light and shadow for a photorealistic quality.

Learn this skill, called shading, by scraping part of your design into the gourd.

"It just creates this new layer and this multi-level depth," says Wer.

Need more help? Check out pumpkin-carving tutorials, such as those posted by The Pumpkin Lady on YouTube.

4. More about tools

The Maniac team favours tools from the kitchen or garage, primarily paring knives, graters and saws. They tout linoleum cutters and sculpting tools.

Linoleum cutters have several gouge tips. Evan likes the V-gouge for making precise cuts, whether shallow or deep. Ceramists' sculpting tools are metal loops on a stick — in various shapes and sizes — that can be purchased at art supply and craft stores. They slice smoothly through pumpkin rind.

Those cheap pumpkin-carving kits? All four of our expert carvers love them.

The Maniac team uses the orange plastic scoop to clean out hundreds of pumpkins — fast. Cummins uses the scoop too, and praises the kit's flimsy, serrated blade.

"Don't underestimate that little saw," Cummins says. "Sometimes there is a need to cut slowly and deliberately, and that is when the little saw is indispensable."

5. Preservation

Once a pumpkin is carved, it begins to deteriorate.

"You will certainly notice a difference in 24 hours," says Cummins in his online tutorial.

Says Evan: "You can't preserve a pumpkin. We recommend 'delay' tactics."

Those include:

- When a Jack-o'-lantern is not on display, Wer says, give it a bath. He has had as many as eight pumpkins bobbing overnight in his bathtub.
- Preserve cut edges with a lemon juice-water mixture, says the Maniac team. Then seal them with vegetable oil or petroleum jelly. Store your carving in the refrigerator or wrap it in plastic wrap and store in a cool place.
- And quick, take a photo. It's the "best and most essential way to preserve your creation," says Cummins.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"Pumpkin carving is definitely not the easiest way to make money. It's not a 'get rich quick' scheme."

Marc Evan, professional pumpkin carver

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The Maniac Pumpkin Carvers' interpretation of Starry Night, by Vincent van Gogh, left, which was commissioned by the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, where it was displayed in the lobby last Halloween. Right, a bird house scene carved on a pumpkin. MANIAC PUMPKIN CARVERS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SHOPPERS DRUG MART
SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 30

Guilt-free brownies — no, seriously

Boasting sugar alternatives, these cocoa-nut Brownies from The Joy of Gluten-Free, Sugar-Free Baking by Peter Reinhart and Denene Wallace make a great treat.

Ingredients

- 2 cups (8 oz) pecan flour
- 1 cup (4 oz) almond flour
- 2 cups Splenda or Stevia Extract in the Raw, or 1/2 cup New Roots Stevia Sugar
- 1/2 cup (1 1/2 ounces) unsweetened natural cocoa powder (not Dutch-process)
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 3 eggs
- 1/2 cup unsweetened chocolate soy milk or chocolate almond milk
- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) salted butter or margarine, melted
- 1 tbsp vanilla extract
- 1/2 tsp liquid Stevia

1. Heat the oven to 350 F. Line an 8-inch square baking pan with parchment paper, then mist it with cooking spray.

2. In a medium bowl, combine the pecan flour, almond flour, Splenda or other sweetener, cocoa powder and baking powder. Whisk until well mixed.

3. In large bowl, whisk the eggs, soy milk, butter, vanilla and liquid Stevia until thoroughly blended. Add the flour mixture and whisk or stir with a large spoon until all of the ingredients are evenly incorporated to make a smooth, sticky batter. Pour the mixture into the prepared pan, spreading it in an even layer.

4. Bake for 15 minutes, then rotate and bake for another 10 minutes, or until the brownies are just slightly springy but still jiggly when pressed gently at the centre. If you like fudgy brownies, remove them from the oven at this point. If you prefer them to be more cake-like, continue baking for a few more minutes, or until a toothpick inserted at the middle of the brownies comes out clean.

5. Let the brownies cool in the pan for at least 15 minutes. You can either cut the brownies in the pan, or transfer the whole piece to a cutting board before cutting. Cut them in a 3-by-4 grid to yield 12 brownies.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ RECIPE FROM PETER REINHART AND DENENE WALLACE'S THE JOY OF GLUTEN-FREE, SUGAR-FREE BAKING, TEN SPEED PRESS, 2012

Cocoa-Nut Brownies

This recipe makes 12 servings. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cookbook of the week

All the yum, none of the regret

After more than two decades of research into gluten-free baking, legendary bread maker Peter Reinhart and his baking partner Denene Wallace have released a collection of 80 recipes for breads, pastries, cookies, cakes and more.

The Joy of Gluten-Free, Sugar-Free Baking also allows readers to make the recipes vegan friendly by following dairy and egg substitution guidelines.

Recipes include: banana bread, garlic breadsticks, blueberry-hazelnut muffins, carrot cake with cream cheese frosting and more.

METRO

Classic cookie gets a gluten-free makeover

This recipe makes 24 cookies. THE CANADIAN PRESS HANDOUT

This gluten-free version of the ultimate classic chocolate chip cookie is made from almond flour and speckled with sliced almonds.

Easy to make and even easier to eat, enjoy it for dessert or use as a post-workout snack to boost your energy.

1. Heat oven to 180 C (350 F). Line baking sheets with parchment paper.

2. In bowl, combine almond flour, salt and baking soda.

3. In bowl, combine grapeseed oil, agave and vanilla. Add to almond flour mix and mix until thoroughly combined. Fold in chocolate chips and almonds.

4. Spoon dough one heaping tablespoon at a time onto baking sheet and press down to flatten. Bake for 7 to 10 minutes, until lightly golden. Let cookies cool on baking sheets for 20 minutes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/CALIFORNIA ALMONDS, ALMONDBOARD.COM

Nutrition information

Here is the nutritional info per cookie.

- **Calories:** 132
- **Fat:** 12 g (1.5 g saturated fat)
- **Protein:** 3 g
- **Carbohydrate:** 6 g
- **Fibre:** 2 g

Ingredients

- 625 ml (2 1/2 cups) almond flour
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) salt
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) baking soda
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) grapeseed oil
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) agave nectar
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) vanilla
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) dark chocolate chips
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) sliced almonds

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Big Bird meets Gangnam

Costumes. Some of the hottest outfits this Halloween season are inspired from pop culture

Popular costumes for adults this year include Big Bird, and South Korean pop star Psy, below. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

HEATHER BUCHAN
For Metro

The final countdown to Halloween has begun and the hot topic amongst kids and adults alike across the country is what to dress up as for Fright Night 2012.

It seems that every year there is more and more variety available. What you choose simply depends on budget, taste and time.

Here are some of this year's hottest costumes for people of all ages:

Depending on a child's age, costumes are more about fun than fright, with many toddlers wobbling around in cutesy, rather than scary, attire that's sure to elicit some ghoulish giggles.

For preschoolers, the most popular costumes year after year include animals (puppy dogs, turtles, cats, horses, bunnies and cows reign supreme) as well as firefighters, bees and, interestingly, hotdogs.

While traditionally spooky costumes like ghosts, ghouls, goblins and witches are classic go-to's every year, increasingly, popular culture influences the costume decisions of teens and adults for Halloween parties.

At Candy's Costume Shop on Mount Pleasant Road in Toronto, Dorothy costumes have already sold out, a trend staff attribute to the reality TV singing competition Over The Rainbow.

Other popular teen and adult costumes that experts predict will be out and about in abundance include Lady Gaga (her eccentric wardrobe provides endless outrageous costume options), South Korean pop star Psy, whose pop song Gangnam Style, complete with invisible horse dance moves, went viral on the Internet, and Big Bird (thanks to U.S. presidential candidate Mitt Romney's name-dropping of the beloved Sesame Street character during the first presidential debate). According to ABC News, Big Bird costumes are flying off the shelves at U.S. costume shops.

Transylvanian vampire costume, far left, and Dorothy costume, $32.93 each at Walmart.

Year after year, the most popular costumes for boys are of the superhero variety, and this year, the impact of the Twilight franchise on tweens and teens alike cannot be overstated. So you can expect to see boys and girls alike dressed as vampires and werewolves this year. Superhero costumes, including Batman and Captain America, both influenced by the mega-popular films, will also be plentiful.

While in days past, many young girls donned princess costumes to do their trick-or-treating in, this year, staff at Candy's have seen more young girls opting for vampire and ghoul costumes. And thanks to the recent Little Red Riding Hood and Snow White-based movies, there is expected to be a resurgence of both fairy tale characters this year as well.

Given all the costume options, Halloween 2012 is sure to be spooktacular.

SHOP HALLOWEEN AT ValueVillage

For great costume, craft and party ideas plus easy makeup videos visit **www.valuevillage.com**

Walk among the dead

Fear faces. DIY tips for giving yourself a ghoulish makeover

ASTRID VAN DEN BROEK
For Metro

Does The Walking Dead have you inspired this Halloween to go zombie? If so, Allison Lumley, owner of Main Artery Designs in Red Deer, Alta., gives us her best tips on turning zombie for the big night.

WHAT TO USE?

Lumley says you can start with regular makeup for a DIY look, such as foundation or eye shadow, keeping in mind that the best bruise colours are greys and black. "Then you can add white glue and toilet paper for a wrinkle or decay effect," she said.

Looking for a more professional look? Visit your local Halloween or theatrical store to pick up basic face paints, theatre blood, and liquid latex/spirit gum for adhering things to your face.

Zombies stroll the streets during recent zombie walks in Toronto, above, and Belgrade, below. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

USE A GUIDE

"Have an image of a skull and use the shadows and highlights from the skull's bone structure to guide your make up," Lumley said. For example, think dark shades around eyes, temples, collar bone, throat and highlighting the cheek bones to give features more depth.

Here is Lumley's step-by-step process for turning into a zombie:

1. Moisturize to prepare your face since you are about to add a lot of makeup to it.
2. Apply a base colour such as a pale blue or grey.
3. Add latex wounds or glue/tissue. "For instant wrinkles, pull back the skin on your forehead so it's tight and put on a layer of glue. Blow dry, then let go," Lumley said. Or squint as tight as you can and lightly dab shade in the form of blacks and greys with a makeup sponge on the squint lines.
4. Add some red around the bottom of the eyes.
5. Mix corn syrup and red food colouring to make coagulated blood to add to wounds, or even swish around your mouth and let it drool out for extra blood effects.
6. Remember to include the neck, ears and hands — think all exposed skin — to keep the effects real.

"And for the ultimate look, you can buy special contact lenses or "Zombie Rot" for your teeth, and rub conditioner through your hair to make it look lifeless and dirty," Lumley said.

Tutorials for creepy creations

We are only a week away from Halloween, do you have your costume ready? If you are planning an elaborate Halloween costume or looking for a last-minute idea, consider adding a swipe of makeup to your fright night festivities.

Embrace your inner zombie or scary character for the holiday, thanks to face paint and a little creativity. We tracked down the best Canadian Halloween makeup tutorials on YouTube to take your costume to the next level.

Crazy Face — youtube.com/watch?v=h6070oEirqM&list=PL96C5DAD11C1D30E3&index=1&feature=plpp_video

Vampire — youtube.com/watch?v=UujCxliW01Y&list=PL96C5DAD11C1D30E3&index=5&feature=plpp_video

Living Doll — youtube.com/watch?v=w5fBbOJv9tQ&list=PL96C5DAD11C1D30E3&index=14&feature=plpp_video

Swamp Thing — youtube.com/watch?v=mgeU1IBDSZo&list=PL96C5DAD11C1D30E3&index=28&feature=plpp_video

Tiki Mask — youtube.com/watch?v=lkbISq9X-qE&list=PL96C5DAD11C1D30E3&index=31&feature=plpp_video

Two-Faced Zombie — youtube.com/watch?v=FK2HigpTAM4&feature=plcp

Walking Dead — youtube.com/watch?v=g36f5SfoVVA

Witch — youtube.com/watch?v=4N8ga7ohwrA

METRO

Demonic décor for your home

ASTRID VAN DEN BROEK
For Metro

Looking to freshen up your home's look for Halloween? Before you drag out the stringy cobwebs and Styrofoam tombstones, consider going a different route this year. Metro asked Karl Lohnes, its Décor Moment columnist, for his thoughts on what's hot for the scariest day of the year.

HAVE FUN WITH LIGHTING

Forget stringing up your Christmas lights early to decorate your front porch. "One of the big trends this Halloween is going more experiential décor," Lohnes said. "So we're going to see people putting strobe lights up inside the window, or hanging not Christmas lights, but Halloween themed mini-lights. They tend to go all out with it."

Or, he adds, you can take a different approach with lighting — say bunching up a string of Halloween lights and after they are lit put them into a beautiful glass bowl for a unique centrepiece. To further create a mood, add in a touch of sound either inside or outside your front door.

THINK BEYOND ORANGE

Forget the traditional strict orange and black colours this year. "There isn't as much orange as we think this year," Lohnes said. "Following popular trends, there are a lot of grey, black, and off-white — it's just more solemn colours to create more of a sophisticated Halloween look rather than just going all orange."

GET CREATIVE WITH PUMPKINS

"People are really doing some interesting things with pumpkins this year," Lohnes said. "And they're doing them to real gourds and artificial ones as well — so changing nature in a way to make it look more interesting." Opt for white pumpkins rather than traditional orange, paint pumpkins a unique colour, or blinging them up. "They are using spray glitter on their pumpkin to have the whole thing have a bit of a shine to it," Lohnes said.

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The undying popularity of haunted houses

ASTRID VAN DEN BROEK
For Metro

Have you toured a haunted house yet in the lead-up to Halloween? Why exactly do we love our haunted experiences so much?

"I think it's something so different from your average experience," says Danusia Rogacki, area manager of technical and event services for Canada's Wonderland, the Vaughan, Ont.-based theme park that produces an annual Halloween Haunt. "People like to feel safe and they assume that most places they go are safe. So they get this kind of thrill when they come in and are expecting to be scared and a monster pops out and they get a little jolt of adrenaline.

"It's so removed from everyday life."

While Rogacki says its corn maze has remained one of the haunt's most popular attractions, she is seeing other types of experiences grow in popularity as well.

"Our clown maze, for example, because I think clowns are a staple fear for a lot of people. And our vampire nightclub has been really popular, too," she said. "You look at those three experiences and they're completely different. The corn maze is outside in the forest — it's all organic and natural materials and then our nightclub is sleek and metals and lasers."

Meanwhile, Rogacki thinks haunts of many sorts — commercial and home haunts (independent haunts held in parking lots or farmer's fields for example) — are a growing attraction.

"The last couple of years this type of attraction has just exploded in popularity," she said. "We're starting to catch up to the States in terms of the popularity with those kinds of events. In the States, you trip over haunt events no matter where you go."

So how can you make the most out of your haunt experience this year?

Here are Rogacki's tips:

- Go to your favourite haunt on a quieter day and time if possible. "Sundays, for example, are quieter so visitors have more time to see their favourites and do their favourites again."
- Go after dark, of course. Many open around dusk at 7 or 8 p.m.
- Tour the haunt in small groups. "That way they'll feel more isolated when they get scared."

Want to find one near you? Try The Pacific National Exhibition: Fright Nights (pne.ca/fright-nights) or search the Canadian Haunters Association website (canadianhauntersassociation.com).

Haunted experiences have exploded in popularity. ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

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CFL

Lions brace for the cold

B.C. Lions star running back Andrew Harris took a trip down memory lane on Wednesday, describing his time growing up in Winnipeg during the frigid grasp of winter.

"It's been a while, but back in high school we'd have to shovel our field off in the winter time to be able to practise," said Harris, who played football at Oak Park High School.

"I'm a little bit used to the cold and all that and I'm kind of excited to play in the snow again."

The Lions take on the Stampeders on Friday night in Calgary, which was walloped by its first major snowstorm of the season this week, and cold still grips the region.

Temperatures during the game could plunge to -12 C, according to Environment Canada's seven-day forecast.

Tim Brown, the Lions kick returner who hails from the "warm climate" of Stockton, Calif., has played in some chilly games during his days in Philadelphia at Temple University.

"I heard Calgary's a little different," he said.

So, how does one battle the elements?

"Just staying warm — trying to keep the legs warm, of course, and the hands for catching the ball," Brown said.

To help prepare, the Lions used up to eight frozen footballs at practice, and some players even put their hands in an icebox to simulate the conditions.

The Lions have beaten the Stampeders twice this season — once in Calgary and once at BC Place — but not in subzero temperatures.

"I think we'll be dressed in white. It'll be great camouflage and I think when you take a look at how the guys have prepared all year, it's just another game, another situation to deal with," said head coach Mike Benevides.

"Some of the guys have never seen snow, so it was kind of fun to watch them watch tape earlier on in the week." CAM TUCKER/METRO

Andrew Harris and the B.C. Lions will have to contend with winter conditions on Friday night in Calgary. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver Giants forward Nathan Burns, left, looks to have a wide-open net, but he was unable to connect on the pass during the first period of Wednesday's Western Hockey League game against the Brandon Wheat Kings at Pacific Coliseum. CAM TUCKER/METRO

Lee can't help stop Giants' slide

WHL. Goalie, 16, makes 25 saves and earns 2nd star in 3-2 loss to Wheat Kings

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

In a bid to stop a four-game losing streak, the Vancouver Giants turned to 16-year-old goalie Payton Lee on Wednesday night against the Brandon Wheat Kings.

Lee, a call-up from the Pacific International Junior Hockey League's Richmond Sockeyes, looked impressive throughout the night but fell victim to a pair of unlucky bounces in the third period, as Vancouver fell 3-2 to the visitors.

Lee, who played in three games for Vancouver last season as a 15-year-old, made 25 stops and was named the game's second star in a losing cause.

The loss drops the Giants' record to 2-9-0-0, which puts them last in the Western Hockey League standings early on in the season.

The Wheat Kings managed to bust open a tied hockey game early in the third period with a pair of power-play goals just 1:18 apart.

Nick Buonassisi, the Wheat Kings' 20-year-old centre from Coquitlam, who earlier scored in the second period, notched his second of the night and sixth of the season less than four minutes into the final period.

Stationed to Lee's right, Buonassisi picked up a loose puck that deflected twice on the initial shot from the blueline and quickly buried it past the Giants goalie to put Brandon ahead 2-1.

The Wheat Kings wasted little time adding the insurance goal.

On a similar play, Tim McGauley directed another puck past Lee, this time after it bounced off the shin pad of Giants centre Cain Franson.

The Giants' slow start to the period turned out to be their undoing, despite a late rally.

Brett Kulak got the Giants to within one goal with less than five minutes remaining in the third period.

With Vancouver on the power play, Kulak crept in off the blue-line, found the loose puck in a crowd of feet and beat Wheat Kings goalie Corbin Boes with a low shot that Boes didn't see until it was past him.

Kulak turned, raised his hands and looked skyward, after the Giants had spent the last 10 minutes pressing for offence.

But it proved to be too little, too late.

The Giants were given a late power play with 25 seconds remaining in the third period but couldn't capitalize.

Wheat Kings defenceman Tyler Yaworski was given a major for checking to the head and a game misconduct after he hit Franson with a shoulder to the head as the Giants forward was crossing the blueline.

The Giants opened the scoring at 2:03 into the game, with Jackson Houck the beneficiary of a Wheat Kings turnover in the slot.

The Giants conclude this latest three-game home stand Friday against their B.C. Division rivals, the Victoria Royals. The Royals are second in the division with a 9-4-0-0 record.

Honorary guest

Giants welcome 'Mr. Hockey' to Vancouver

Gordie Howe will be at Pacific Coliseum on Friday for the Vancouver Giants Legends Night.

Howe, along with his brother Marty and the New Westminster Bruins' Mark Lofthouse, will be in attendance when the Giants host the Victoria Royals.

Now 84, Howe began his NHL career during the 1946-47 season with the Detroit Red Wings.

He went on to play 24 years with the Red Wings, with a stint later in his career with the Hartford Whalers.

Howe played 1,767 NHL games, scoring 801 regular-season goals and collecting 1,850 points. CAM TUCKER/METRO

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MLS. Caps captain DeMerit up for 3 awards

Three members of the Vancouver Whitecaps are up for Major League Soccer year-end awards, the club announced Wednesday.

Defender and club captain Jay DeMerit is up for three awards, including defender of the year, comeback player of the year and MLS best XI.

Y.P. Lee, who joined the Whitecaps during the off-season, was also nominated for defender of the year and MLS best XI, as well as newcomer of the year.

The 35-year-old defender from Hongcheon-gun, South Korea, made 27 consecutive regular-season starts for the Whitecaps, playing in every minute of every game, prior to Sept. 1, when head coach Martin Rennie rested him for one game against the L.A. Galaxy.

Darren Mattocks, the Whitecaps' 22-year-old striker, was nominated for MLS rookie of the year.

Mattocks, 22, was the club's first-round pick, second overall, in the 2012 MLS SuperDraft and is the Whitecaps' leading scorer with seven goals.

CAM TUCKER/METRO

Whitecaps captain Jay DeMerit is up for three year-end MLS awards. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Pablo nearly perfects art of long-ball to open World Series

Giants third baseman Pablo Sandoval hits a first-inning home run off of Tigers starter Justin Verlander in Game 1 of the World Series on Wednesday night in San Francisco. CHRISTIAN PETERSEN/GETTY IMAGES

MLB. Burly third baseman cranks three homers as Giants run away with Game 1

Game 1

Giants	Tigers
8	3

With three mighty swings, Pablo Sandoval put the San Francisco Giants ahead in this World Series and put himself in a class with Mr. October.

Sandoval hit three home runs and joined Reggie Jackson, Babe Ruth and Albert Pujols as the only sluggers to do it in the Series, and the Giants jolted Justin Verlander and the Detroit Tigers 8-3 on Wednesday night in Game 1.

A rollicking AT&T Park crowd — a sea of black and orange outfits — roared as Sandoval connected in his first three at-bats. Popular in the Bay Area as the Kung Fu Panda for his roly-poly shape, he went 4 for 4 and drove in four runs. A Giant panda for sure.

From start to finish, it was basically a perfect game by the Giants. Coming off a Game 7 win over St. Louis on Monday night, they looked totally fresh.

"We played our last game only two days ago," Sandoval said. "We're still hot. We just came here and played our game."

Verlander, the reigning Cy Young winner so dominant in this post-season, looked uncomfortable from the get-go and constantly pawed at the mound.

As fans filed out singing along with Tony Bennett's standard I Left My Heart in San Francisco, the final score raised a nagging question for manager Jim Leyland and his favoured Tigers: Did too much rest after a playoff sweep of the Yankees mean too much rust?

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York Islanders to call Brooklyn home

Now hockey is coming to Brooklyn.

The NHL's New York Islanders have agreed to move to the Barclays Center starting with the 2015-16 season.

"Hello Brooklyn!" Islanders owner Charles Wang said as he made the announcement at a news conference Wednesday. The lease deal is for 25 years.

Officials in nearby Nassau County, N.Y., have struggled for years to come up with a plan to either renovate or build a new arena to replace the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum, which opened in 1972. Wang, the founder of a computer software company, presented a plan in 2003 for a privately funded multibillion-dollar development of housing, retail and a new arena on the property, but the proposal met community opposition.

Staying close

The Barclays deal took seven months to complete and was finished Tuesday night, according to Wang, who said he had wanted to keep the team local.

Wang had long threatened to move the team from its home in Uniondale after the club's lease expired following the 2014-15 season.

"Brooklyn is big time and now we have the big-league sports to prove it," Mayor Michael Bloomberg said.

Long Island fans seemed resigned to the move for a team that won the Stanley Cup every year from 1980 through 1983 but missed the playoffs last season.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Workers sweep in front of the Barclays Center in Brooklyn in September. The New York Islanders will move there from Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Uniondale, N.Y. KATHY WILLEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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Lockout. Darkness falls on NHL labour talks

The NHL's labour talks have entered a dark period. When that will lift is anyone's guess.

Rather than working towards progress on a new collective bargaining agreement in the coming days, the league is expected to start making grim announcements that will be all too familiar to fans who lived through the 2004-05 lockout.

It's a virtual certainty that a full 1,230-game schedule won't be played, with commissioner Gary Bettman acknowledging Wednesday that "it looks like an 82-game season (for each team) is not going to be a reality."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gary Bettman THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL. Blue Jackets bring in veteran exec Davidson

Unlike many people in hockey, John Davidson wasn't afraid of the losing tradition of the Columbus Blue Jackets.

"I like the idea of the challenge. I mean, it's possible. In fact, it's something we're going to do," Davidson said Wednesday after being hired as the Blue Jackets' new president of hockey operations.

The former player, Hall of Fame broadcaster and St. Louis Blues president believes he can transform a franchise with just one, brief trip to the post-season into a Stanley Cup contender.

Quoted

"We'll win our share. As we move along here, we'll win more than our share."
John Davidson

Davidson will take over a new position. The former president, Mike Priest, will now concentrate only on the business side of a team that had the worst record in the NHL last season (29-46-7, 65 points).

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You will go out of your way to prove you have what it takes, but don't go too far and do something that lands you in a lot of trouble. By all means, be adventurous but keep things in perspective too.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You may be tempted to take some kind of risk but the Sun linked to Saturn in your opposite sign warns that's not such a good idea. Try to think through the consequences of your actions before you take them.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
No matter how eager you may be to change your life for the better, you still need to invest a bit more time thinking things through. Your plans may never be watertight but they can be more realistic.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Your confidence is back and everyone is praising you to the skies. That is all very nice but you should be aware that some of those people don't really want to see you succeed. You know who they are.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
It might be tempting to get involved in a dispute of some kind but if you are smart, you will keep your distance. Nothing you do or say will change the situation one little bit, so leave well alone.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
If you allow other people to speak on your behalf, you will probably regret it. Either speak for yourself or keep your thoughts secret. In general, the less others know about your plans and ambitions, the better.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
The Sun close to Saturn in the money area of your chart warns you need to be realistic about your cash flow situation. Don't spend it if you haven't got it — and, if you have got it, save it for later.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You may think that nothing can harm you, that fortune favours you because you are bold. To an extent that is true, but don't get silly about it. Even Scorpios are human. Even Scorpios bleed. Be careful.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
To resolve a long running problem, you may need to team up with someone who knows more about a specific area than you do. You can make use of their knowledge and they can make use of your energy.

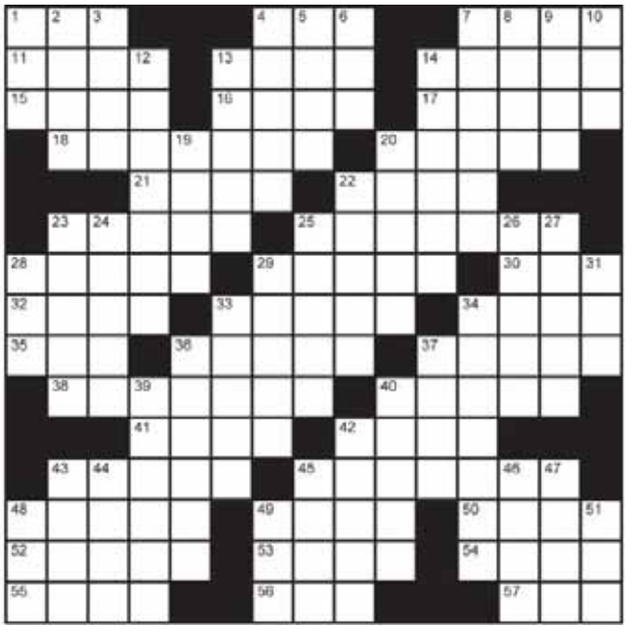
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Everything has its place and purpose. It is simply not true that we live in a meaningless universe. You may be a down to earth sort by nature but today you will want to dig deeper into life's mysteries.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Try not to take anything for granted today. And try not to let your fantasies take over your mind. Wishful thinking can be fun but it can also be dangerous. Reach for the stars but don't lose touch with reality.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
There is no point trying to force yourself to do something you don't enjoy because you won't do a good job at it. Either you give it one hundred per cent or you don't do it at all. What will it be? **SALLY BROMPTON**

This Puzzle Has No Title

BY MICHAEL WIESENBERG



Across
1. Occupied a chair
4. Astroturf rival
7. Desire
11. Biggest problems of some celebrities
13. Identical
14. Québec peninsula along the south shore of the Saint Lawrence River
15. Winnie-the-___
16. "Sad to say ..."
17. "On the ___ hand ...": "Here's a different idea ..."
18. BC's ___ National Park, in the Rockies near Revelstoke
20. Headquartered
21. A whole bunch
22. Jaguar or Mustang
23. ___-et-un: blackjack (from French for "21")
25. Side with the football
28. Assistants
29. Irritate by rubbing
30. A cheer
32. Member of a landscaping team who digs up weeds
33. Like nonvegetarian spaghetti sauces
34. Apple eater's throw-away
35. ___ mode: with ice cream (2 wds.)
36. Bookstore shelving category
37. "___ Lane": Beatles song
38. "Wild Rose Country" province
40. Infraction fees
41. Cabin material
42. Transmitted
43. Black playing card
45. Canada's most populous province
48. Cognizant of one's surroundings
49. ___-Ball: old arcade game
50. Makes a mistake
52. Challenges
53. Bauxite and galena
54. Insecticide ingredient
55. Adds color to
56. Place for a drink
57. Asian sauce type

Down
1. End-of-summer mo.
2. All ___: excited
3. Chisel or hammer
4. After-Christmas store events
5. *Rubáiyát* poet Khayyam, actor Sharif, or *House* actor Epps
6. ___ Moines, Iowa
7. Doctor who's Sherlock Holmes's sidekick
8. "How ___, Doc?": "What's his prognosis?" (2 wds.)
9. Exceeded the posted limit
10. That girl
12. Montréal-born *Star Trek* star William
13. Blessed one
14. Colonel Sanders, Mitch Miller, or the Devil's beard type
19. Gear teeth
20. Saskatchewan-born folk singer Sainte-Marie
22. ___ worse than death: dire outcome (2 wds.)
23. String quartet member
24. Worthy aim
25. Scarlett ___ of *Gone With the Wind*
26. Witch
27. Brings in, as a salary
28. "Gotcha!"
29. Change for a nickel
31. "Pay attention!"
33. Become one company
34. Moved to the middle
36. Hollow, crystal-lined stones
37. ___ colada: rum cocktail
39. Plays at maximum volume
40. Big celebrations
42. Villainous expression
43. Bend with the breeze
44. Peel
45. Southern US stew ingredient
46. Angers
47. Sandwich cookie
48. Also say
49. Bawl
51. Pig pen

Yesterday's Crossword

What's online

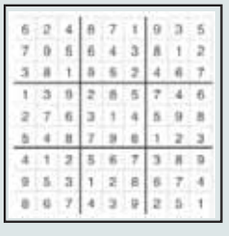
See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

2	7		1		6		9	4
				3				
	1						8	
		7	5		4	6		
6								8
		2	9		3	1		
	5						2	
				1				
8	3		7		2		1	5

Yesterday's Sudoku



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